

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Taxi drivers:
Fares still
to low—
Page 3



France sends envoys to Damascus, Beirut in hostage drama

BEIRUT (AFP). — As France pursued efforts yesterday to obtain the release of eight hostages in Lebanon, the Islamic Jihad terror group produced photographs purporting to prove that it had already executed one of the four French nationals it claimed to hold.

The Shi'ite group denied it was holding the four members of a French television crew kidnapped in Beirut on Saturday. It said another group using Islamic Jihad's name had abducted the Antenne-2 crew.

The group sent three black-and-white photographs to a Western news agency here to back up its claim to have killed one of the four French hostages it has been holding since last year. The pictures showed a recognizable likeness of hostage Michel Seurat, 38, unshaven and shirtless, his right eye half open and left eye closed. Another shot showed a corpse wrapped in a large checkered blanket, with bandaged head and feet protruding. The third showed a closed coffin with a crucifix on top.

Islamic Jihad said it had killed Seurat in the expectation that the French government would make "historic decisions that would take France out of the lap of the U.S. and Israel."

Islamic Jihad first announced last Wednesday it had killed Seurat, a Middle East researcher, in retaliation for France's expulsion to Baghdad of two Iraqi dissidents. Another hostage has been threatened with death by next Sunday unless the dissidents are sent back to France.

In addition to Beirut, France sought to send envoys to Damascus and Tehran yesterday to investigate Seurat's fate and work towards

freeing the hostages.

The official Syrian news agency said President Hafez Assad yesterday received a letter from French President François Mitterrand, delivered by an envoy who arrived in Damascus.

Tehran, however, denied entry to the envoy (who was scheduled to visit the Iranian capital), apparently to demonstrate that it was not associated with the kidnappers, French diplomats said.

Although Islamic Jihad denied it was trying to influence the French National Assembly elections Sunday, a deepening crisis over the hostages has overshadowed the final days of campaigning.

Jean Lecanuet, leader of France's centre-right opposition liberal UDF party, said in Paris yesterday that the government was acting in a "disturbing" way to obtain the release of the hostages.

Lecanuet noted that "three shiploads of arms left Cherbourg for Iran, and when the press revealed this, the Government said there was a blunder and blamed a French firm."

He was referring to charges that 350,000 French shells worth \$105 million have been delivered to Iran recently, although France is a major supplier of arms to Iraq. The government has denied responsibility for the arms deal and ordered an inquiry.

Implying that such a deal could not be made without the government's knowledge, Lecanuet said the government intended it as an "arrangement with Iran in the hope of being able to negotiate the release of the French hostages. It was an electoral operation."

Damascus gives its idea of peace

'Syria accuses Israel of 'psychological war'

By Post Middle East Staff
Damascus Radio yesterday accused Israel of waging "psychological warfare" against Syria and said Israeli allegations that Syria is preparing for war are "mere speculation."

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rabin accused Syria of "encouraging and aiding terrorism in general" and said Israel would have to change its tactics to confront the rise in terrorist activity in South Lebanon. Rabin spoke to reporters in northern Israel after touring the area in the security zone where an IDF soldier was killed and five others were wounded in a terrorist attack on Saturday night.

Damascus Radio, in its commentary, said, "Israel has launched a massive campaign to create the impression that Syria is preparing to start a war. According to the radio, Israel 'alternately claims that Syria is readying for a 'major war' and that it is preparing for a 'limited war to recover the Golan Heights.'"

"Israel says that Syria's pursuit of a policy of strategic parity shows that Damascus wants to go to war against Israel and does not want to seek a peace settlement in the Middle East," Damascus Radio said.

Ain El-Hud Barak, OC Central Command, said in Tel Aviv last night that Syria was preparing its forces to determine through force the fate of the Golan.

Rabin said yesterday that the "heavy price" Israel has paid in South Lebanon in the last month is connected with the large number of actions by the terrorists of the fundamentalist Shi'ite group, Hizbollah. "We must adjust our tactics," he said, "to ensure that such attacks do not recur."

Rabin said Hizbollah has not yet presented any demands to Israel for the return of the two IDF soldiers kidnapped in the security zone last month. "We have no new information about the soldiers. Hizbollah does not make it a practice to give details on its hostages," Rabin said.

Weinberger worried over Israel-Syrian tension

WASHINGTON. — U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger yesterday expressed concern over the growing tension between Syria and Israel.

Weinberger, who was answering reporters' questions, said he had reservations about the Israel Air Force's long-range bombing missions. He hinted also that Israel could not bear the cost of developing the Lavi fighter plane.

Weinberger stated that there was no connection between aid for the Contra rebels in Nicaragua and the missiles deal with Saudi Arabia. He said he hoped that the U.S. would



Weinberger (Rubinger)

continue to supply arms to Jordan. Asked if he feared a clash with the Soviets in the event of a flareup between Israel and Syria, Weinberger said: "All tensions worries us."

He said the U.S. wants the implementation of the Reagan Plan of 1982 for peace in the Middle East.

The day that Herut showed its schizophrenia

By MARK SEGAL
Post Political Correspondent
TEL AVIV. — A visitor to the remarkably unruly Herut convention here could be excused for thinking the party schizophrenic.

On the one hand this is the respectable party of half the government. On the other hand yesterday's disorderly mob scenes were strongly evocative of the old rabble-rousing image of Herut's decades in opposition, an image Herut's managers have strenuously sought to erase.

One party veteran sighed on seeing what can only be described as the mugging of Deputy Foreign Minister Ronnie Milo, and said: "After such scenes, how can we expect the broader electorate to entrust us with the running of the country?"

Herut has entered the post-Begin phase with a vengeance. The benign paternalistic figure of the "comman-



der" (Hamefaked), in full control of the raw emotions he let loose no longer rules here. Instead, the wild enthusiasm, to which Begin would have whipped his ecstatic supporters only to bottle them up in the end — has returned to haunt his chosen successor. At least half the party appears to be challenging Begin's virtual anointment of Yitzhak Shamir as his heir, and is instead supporting David Levy's claim to the crown.

Of course there are those who may claim that there's nothing novel in today's goings-on. Herutniks have

Fracas and fury at Herut convention



Delegates at the Herut convention remonstrate as the lectern is thrown from the stage during an argument. (Andre Brummann)



Supporters of the rival camps in Herut dispute the day's issues. (Rivka Pinder)

El Al offer to Arkia could skirt Sabbath ban

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
TEL AVIV. — El Al President Rafi Har-lev yesterday offered to lease aircraft to Arkia, thus enabling the national carrier to circumvent a government order barring it from operating its aircraft on the Sabbath and on Jewish holidays.

Har-lev made the offer at a gathering marking the inauguration of a charter service from Israel to Hamburg and Cologne that is being operated by the privately-owned Arkia and El Al's charter subsidiary, Sun d'Or.

Arkia does not have planes for more flights, but Har-lev said he would be happy "to put equipment

at [the carrier's] disposal" on Saturdays. He made it clear that the aircraft would have to be returned to El Al in time for Sunday's scheduled flights.

Noting that Europeans like to schedule their vacation flights on the weekends, Har-lev told Arkia and Sun d'Or managers, "Saturday is the best day of the week, and I don't understand why you don't use it more."

Har-lev said he could lease the jets for Saturday flights at lower rates than those Arkia pays for the two Boeing 707s it has leased on a long-term basis from El Al. "The leasing conditions would be better

because we would be using equipment which [otherwise] would be standing on the ground," Har-lev explained.

By paying less for the aircraft the charter company could reduce rates for the agents organizing the groups, and thus be more competitive with foreign carriers.

At present Arkia and Sun d'Or fly only 15 per cent of all tourists coming to Israel on charter flights. Arkia's director-general, Yossi Rosen, said he wanted to increase that figure to 25 per cent within two years.

Cargo Airlines (CAL) also operates a Boeing leased from El Al, which it operates on the Sabbath.

Factions square off in midnight voting for presidium chief

By SARAH HONIG
and Roy Isacowitz
Post Political Reporters

TEL AVIV. — Fist fights, shouting and shoving set the business sessions of the Herut convention off to a stormy start yesterday afternoon, more than seven hours behind schedule. And it was only the intervention of Binyamin Ze'ev Begin, son of the party's veteran leader, that prevented even further violence. Last night, at press-time, the 2,000-odd delegates squared off in the first crucial vote to elect the chairman of the convention's presidium. Apart from the vote, none of the first day's scheduled events took place.

The younger Begin yesterday formally allied himself with the camp of Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir, announcing that he would compete against Ariel Sharon's bid to chair the mandates committee.

The first ballot was contested by Moshe Katsav, representing the Shamir camp, and Eliahu Ben-Elissar, representing the ad hoc David Levy-Sharon alliance. The winner will chair the convention and, to a large extent, determine its proceedings.

But the significance of the ballot goes much deeper: it is the first test of strength between the two camps and will indicate the probable outcome of other votes to be held during the three-day convention.

Ya'acov Shamir, a Levy supporter and head of the Likud caucus in the Knesset, said that a win by the Shamir camp would in fact mean the ascendancy of that camp for several years to come. In the immediate future, the dominant camp will determine the nature of the next central committee which, in turn, will elect the party's representatives for the next Knesset election list.

The leaders of the two camps gathered their supporters for a pep talk before the vote. In a rabble-rousing speech, Levy said that the Shamir camp had rejected all his proposals for a compromise and accused it of "throwing mud at me."

He exhorted his supporters to "act as soldiers in a war against conquest."

Sharon was a lot calmer, calling on his supporters to "act quietly." He revealed that he had been approached by the Shamir camp "maybe 10 times today" to reach an agreement excluding Levy.

Convention sessions were due to start at 9:30 a.m. but, with tension and invective escalating wildly, there were repeated delays. Meanwhile, the warring factions' frantic last-ditch efforts to strike a bargain came to naught.

Excitement was at fever pitch at 4:45 p.m. as party secretariat chairman Yoram Aridor announced the

start of voting for presidium chairman. It was then that Levy burst onto the podium and, trembling with emotion, shouted: "There will be no vote! Something terrible has just happened. Forty-one Druse and Beduin delegates have been disqualified simply and solely because they support me, David Levy. Some sinister hand has been at work to expunge their names from the roster. We will not stand for this foul injustice." (Later, in a show of hands vote, the convention plenum accepted 58 Arab and Druse delegates said to include backers of all the rival groupings.)

Ronnie Milo then came forward to deliver the Shamir camp's rebuttal of Levy's charges. But, amid loud booing, he was immediately set upon by a band of ruffians led by Gaston Malka of the Petah Tikva branch, identified as a Levy man, though Levy later denied any connection with him.

Milo was knocked to the floor having only managed to stammer out: "Everyone has the right to speak here," as Malka grabbed the microphone from him and hurled it from the podium towards the audience. Pandemonium broke loose, as hundreds of delegates surged for-

Photographer breaks leg — Page 2

ward in what threatened to become a major stampede.

It was then that the younger Begin, after braving the melee, reached the podium. He stood quite still and was quickly joined by Moshe Arens, a leading figure in the Shamir camp. And suddenly there came the rhythmic chants that had so often greeted his father: "Begin! Begin!" The cry filled the auditorium, and slowly tempers began to cool, with MK Meir Shitrit and former MK Akiva Nof seizing the opportunity to turn the mood around and lead delegates in a sing-along. But Begin was later treated far more roughly.

Levy later told reporters that he condemned the violence which, he said, had been none of his doing.

Despite the excitement of the first vote, the following votes promise to be even more dramatic. They are to pit the younger Begin against Sharon, and then Levy against Arens, in competition for the chairmanship of the all-important steering committee.

The Begin-Sharon contest has considerable symbolic significance, for Begin has made no bones about his antagonism to Sharon, and has hinted broadly that his feelings echo his father's sentiments.

Levy's reception yesterday was that of a crown prince. His support-

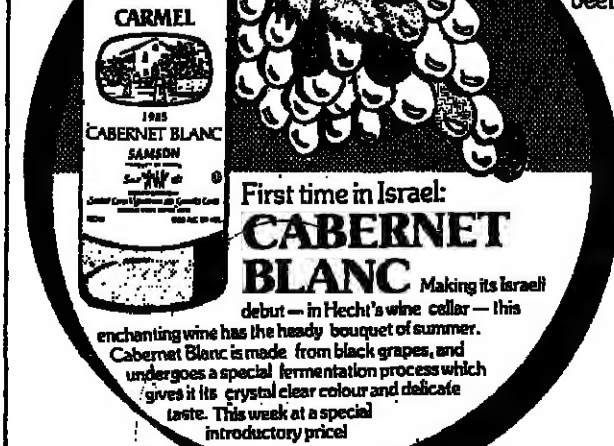
(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL: Lamb à la Hecht!

It's Gourmet Week at Hecht

We're going to really tickle your taste buds this week.

Our chef has decided to spoil you with three exotic dishes: Roast shank of lamb, oven baked mutton, and veal in wine and mushrooms. Three royal dishes that you'll find in the finest French restaurants — now in Hecht too! And what better companion to these dishes than Carmel's fabulous new Cabernet Blanc at a special introductory price? Other special offers this week include fresh minced beef and fresh beef Assado.



First time in Israel: CABERNET BLANC Making its Israeli debut — in Hecht's wine cellar — this enchanting wine has the lovely bouquet of summer. Cabernet Blanc is made from black grapes, and undergoes a special fermentation process which gives it its crystal clear colour and delicate taste. This week at a special introductory price!

Hecht — Meats and other treats

Commercial Center, Kfar Shmaryahu. Tel: 052-78631. Open: Sunday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The weather at major Swissair destinations

	10.3.86	MAX.	MIN.	WIND	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	6	12	4	15	Clear
BRUSSELS	8	14	6	15	Clear
BUDAPES	10	16	8	15	Clear
CHICAGO	5	12	3	15	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	8	14	6	15	Clear
FRANKFURT	7	13	5	15	Clear
GENEVA	7	13	5	15	Clear
HAMBURG	8	14	6	15	Clear
HELSINKI	10	16	8	15	Clear
JERUSALEM	17	23	10	15	Clear
LONDON	5	12	3	15	Cloudy
MADRID	11	17	9	15	Clear
MONTREAL	2	9	0	15	Cloudy
NEW YORK	5	12	3	15	Cloudy
OSLO	6	12	4	15	Clear
PARIS	6	12	4	15	Clear
SAO PAULO	19	25	13	15	Clear
STOCKHOLM	10	16	8	15	Clear
TOKYO	10	16	8	15	Clear
ZURICH	7	13	5	15	Clear

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

Tel Aviv, 41 Ben Yehuda St. (03) 243350
Jerusalem, 30 Jaffa St. (02) 225233
Haifa, 2 Sasa Road. (04) 324322
Beer Sheva, 36 Ha'Avot St. (057) 35282

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

	Yesterday's	Humidity	Min-Max	Today's
Jerusalem	53	9-17	19	
Golan	68	7-17	18	
Salad	60	6-15	17	
Haifa Port	73	15-19	20	
Thibaris	49	11-24	24	
Nazareth	58	11-18	20	
Afula	56	7-21	23	
Shomron	57	12-20	21	
Tel Aviv	62	12-20	21	
B-G Airport	58	11-19	21	
Jericho	46	11-24	25	
Gaza	66	12-20	21	
Beersheba	47	11-20	22	
Eilat	34	15-26	26	

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

West Germany's ambassador to Israel, Wilhelm Haas, yesterday visited the Weizmann Institute of Science as guest of its president, Professor Aryeh Dvoretzky. Accompanying him was Dr. Alex Brenner of the embassy. He also met with Professors Ruth Arnon, Ze'ev Fraenkel, Ze'ev Luz, Shmuel Shaltiel, William Taub and Ada Zamir, among others, as well as Gideon Elrom, Shaihevet Freier, and Dr. Arie Nissenbaum. Also present at the luncheon were Professor Anne Beloff-Chaim and Yochanan Merz.

Tel Aviv University yesterday conferred an honorary doctorate of philosophy on the eminent Brazilian plastic surgeon Professor Ivo Pitanguy in the presence of Health Minister Mordechai Gur. The recipient of the degree later lectured on "The surgical treatment of breast deformities."

Jacob Javits laid to rest in New York

NEW YORK (AP). - Political and business leaders from across the nation, including dozens of senators and congressmen, gathered in New York City on Monday to pay their final respects to former senator Jacob Javits.

Javits, 81, died last Friday of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis which he had been battling since 1979.

Among those expected to attend the funeral at Manhattan's Central Synagogue were U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese and Senators Daniel P. Moynihan, Edward Kennedy and Charles Mathias.

Premier Peres yesterday sent a telegram to Javits' widow Marion, saying "Jacob Javits was the symbol of a courageous fighter for human liberty, for the rights of all those who were deprived. There was no struggle for social justice of which he did not seek to set right. The State of Israel was privileged to find in Senator Jacob Javits - an ardent friend, a constant supporter, and a fair advocate."

CHEAP GASOLINE - Local price wars in about a dozen cities across the U.S. have dropped gasoline prices to a 62.9 cents per gallon (3.8 litres).

In the Leeds County Court, No. 12 of 1986
In Bankruptcy
Re: Harvey Michael Ross
Ex parte, Christopher Jardine-Barry
IN THE MATTER OF A BANKRUPTCY PETITION filed this 28th day of February, 1986.
To Harvey Michael Ross, late of 287, Alwoodley Lane, Leeds 17.
Take notice that a bankruptcy petition has been presented against you in this court by Christopher Jardine-Barry of 755, The Green, Yeading, Leeds LS19 7YS, and the court has ordered that the sending of a sealed copy of the petition, together with a sealed copy of the order for substituted service by registered post addressed to Messrs. McCormick Castle and Co. of 2nd floor, Oxford House, Oxford Row, Leeds 1, and Messrs. Allsop Stevens of Market Buildings, 28 Mining Lane, London EC2V 7ER, and the publication of this notice in the Leeds County Court shall be deemed to be service of the petition upon you.
And further take notice that the said petition will be heard at the Leeds County Court, the Courtroom, 1 Oxford Row, Leeds, West Yorkshire, on Tuesday, the 18th day of March, 1986, at 12 noon, on which day you are required to appear, and if you do not appear the court may make a receiving order against you in your absence.
The petition can be inspected by you on application to the Leeds County Court. Dated this 10th day of March, 1986.
R.C. Moorehouse and Co., Solicitors for the Petitioning Creditor, whose address is 10/17 East Parade, Leeds, LS1D 2BB, West Yorkshire, England.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Alleged to have assaulted hunters

Police open file against Sharon

By ASHER WALLFISH

Post Knesset Correspondent

The police opened a file for assault and battery against Industry and Commerce Minister Ariel Sharon two weeks ago, in connection with an alleged attack on two Israeli Arabs who were out hunting 18 months ago.

The two are said to have been shooting rabbits with a licensed hunting rifle and a valid permit, and to have been chased off a section of unfenced and uncultivated land by a security guard employed at Sharon's Negev ranch.

One of the plaintiffs, Feisal Yunis, of Arara village in the Triangle, said he was leaving the area when Sharon appeared in a jeep, stopped him, and demanded his rifle.

Sharon allegedly stunned him with a blow over the left eye, drawing blood, and then kicked him twice, in the testicles and in the ribs. Yunis charged that Sharon told him: "I will finish you off."

Sharon later allegedly assaulted Yunis's companion, likewise drawing blood. It is alleged that Sharon confiscated the hunting rifles and ammunition.

When the hunters went to Sderot police station to complain, they were reportedly told their complaint could not be accepted because of Sharon's parliamentary immunity.

Yunis gave sworn testimony before a lawyer at the offices of the Citizens Rights Movement in the Knesset last June. When two CRM members, Yossi Sarid and Ran Cohen, asked Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir to take up the Arab hunters' complaint, he referred them back to the police at a higher level and they then wrote to Police Inspector-General David Kraus.

Police investigators recently began taking testimony from Yunis and his fellow-hunter.

Cohen and Sarid submitted to Zamir that Sharon's alleged behaviour could not possibly be co-

vered by his parliamentary immunity.

Sharon was quoted on TV's Mabat newsreel last night as saying that the complaint was filed a year-and-a-half late, and only at the initiative of "left-wing Knesset members."

Mabat reported that he had said that Yunis and his friend had been hunting on his property, that he had confiscated their weapons only after they refused to hand them over to a security man, and that he himself had refrained from filing a complaint with police because the two men had pleaded with him not to do so.

Sharon also reportedly told Mabat that he regards as grave the leaking of details on an on-going police investigation, especially while "politically significant events are taking place."

The newsreel quoted a police spokesman as saying that Sharon had not been questioned by the police on the matter, but had replied in writing to questions sent to him.

Murphy here for 'period of reflection'

By Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Foreign Ministry sources do not expect any dramatic developments in Middle East peace efforts to result from U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's visit to the region, which began on Sunday.

Murphy is due in Israel today and is to meet with Prime Minister Peres and Foreign Minister Shamir, and possibly with Defence Minister Rabin.

Tomorrow, meanwhile, the talks with Egypt on Taba and bilateral issues resume in Herzliya.

The sources noted that Murphy has defined his visit as a "period of reflection" rather than a peace shuttle or even an exploratory effort. Moreover, Murphy, who arrives from Cairo after a weekend visit to Tunis, is not scheduled to visit Jordan, Syria or Lebanon after his stay in Jerusalem. Murphy has been care-

ful not to raise false expectations in the region over his visit.

The sources believe that the main purpose of the visit to Cairo was to learn about the situation after the security police uprising. The visit to Jerusalem is seen as an inevitable if possibly unfruitful additional stop.

The BBC reported last night that Washington, irritated with Egypt for not implementing economic reforms, is holding back \$265 million of promised aid.

Meanwhile, American sources took a somewhat sceptical line about the suggestions emanating from Jerusalem that it might be worthwhile to pursue a "Gaza first" approach to implementing autonomy in the territories.

The American attitude is to bear out the details of the Israeli proposal before reacting. But the American sources noted that when Egyptian

president Anwar Sadat suggested the same idea, the U.S. maintained that autonomy in Gaza must clearly be a prelude to autonomy in the West Bank as well. Both the U.S. and Egypt opposed the institution of autonomy only in the Gaza Strip.

In Jerusalem yesterday, Justice Minister Moshe Nissim said Murphy's hopes of smoothing the way towards peace negotiations were "an exercise in futility."

According to Nissim, neither the U.S. nor the Arabs have the will or the courage required for a "warm peace" in the region.

"There's no basis on which to talk peace right now," he said. "To discuss peace, one needs a reliable partner. And I don't see one in President Mubarak, King Hussein or any other Arab leader at the moment."

Shilansky to tour the Mount once again

Post Knesset Correspondent

Knesset Interior Committee Chairman Dov Shilansky said yesterday that his committee will make a second tour of the Temple Mount before the Pessah recess and resume its deliberations on charges of unlicensed construction there.

Shilansky's first foray onto the mount on January 14 cost the Israel Police NIS 35,000 because 521 policemen had to be called in to keep the peace. Virshubski said his figures came from Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev.

Meanwhile, Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir (Likud-Liberals) yesterday toured the Temple Mount with the multi of Jerusalem, Sheikh Sa'ad al-Din al-Alami.

Sharir examined work being done to renovate the Aska Mosque and visited the underground site known as Solomon's Stables. A statement released by Sharir's office referred to the stables as the site of "supposed construction work on the mount."

Al-Alami told Sharir that Egypt had not completely fulfilled the late president Anwar Sadat's promise to renovate the Temple Mount shrines. Sharir said he would raise the subject during his upcoming trip to Egypt.

Hapoel Tel Aviv upsets Maccabi in play-off

By DON GOULD

Post Basketball Reporter

TEL AVIV. - The uniform view of all basketball pundits that the local season was over and done with and that Maccabi Tel Aviv were already crowned champions again in all but name was shattered rudely down to earth at Yad Eliahu stadium last night. Hapoel Tel Aviv registered a sensational 104-102 victory (63-56 at the half) over Maccabi to send their semi-final play-off series into a third game next Monday night.

Hapoel turned in a fantastic all round team effort after which captain Mike Lapeere could justly proclaim in ecstasy. "It proves that if you believe in something strongly enough you can make it come true. We believed."

They not only believed. They played like their future depended on the evening effort and Maccabi who were behind from the opening buzzer to the last could not find the answer to the fierce commitment. There was a crowd of only 3,000 to witness the gigantic upset and even though the majority might have been Maccabi fans they had to concede that the night belonged to Hapoel.

Top Scorers: Hapoel - Mercer 26, Largee 25, Williams 24, Zimmerman 19; Maccabi - Magee 31, Berkowitz 30.

DEGREE. - The Higher Education Council has authorized Haifa University to grant MA degrees in Arabic language and literature.

STRESS. - Prof. Shlomo Breznitz, head of Haifa University's psychological stress research centre, has been invited to give a guest lecture at the University of Pennsylvania, during the jubilee celebrations of its medical school.



The shampoo ad escaped unharmed, but people waiting for buses could no longer sit at this charred bus shelter on Rehov Aza, in Jerusalem.

(Dan Landau)

Yeshiva student held in J'lem bus shelter arson

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A 20-year-old student from the Ma'alot Tora yeshiva in Jerusalem's Sha'ar Hessed neighbourhood has admitted to setting fire to a bus-stop shelter on Gaza Road, the police reported yesterday.

He was arrested after being seen running from the shelter at 3 a.m.

yesterday in the direction of the nearby yeshiva. He is to be brought before a magistrate's court judge this morning for an extension of his remand.

He is also suspected of setting fire to a shelter in the Sha'ar Hessed neighbourhood, but he denies having done so.

Israel seeks extradition of former J'lem bank officer

By BARBARA AMOUYAL

For The Jerusalem Post

The Justice Ministry has formally asked the French government to extradite Moshe Stern, a former manager of the North American Bank's Jerusalem branch, Justice Minister Moshe Nissim told reporters yesterday.

Suspected of embezzling millions of dollars from the bank, Stern was arrested by French police on January 19, in a yeshiva near Versailles, after the Israel police asked Interpol to locate him.

Stern had left the bank on August 14, 1985, two days before the Bank of Israel discovered that huge sums were missing from North American Bank reserves.

Stern's lawyer, David Rotlevy has been negotiating with Israeli police and Justice Ministry officials, telling

them that Stern was willing to disclose what he knew about the missing funds, and that he was ready to help locate most of the money, on condition that he not be arrested on arrival in Israel.

But police and Justice Ministry officials deny that there has been any plea bargaining.

Inspector-General David Kraus told the press last month that extradition requests had been delayed due to complexities in the French legal system. Once brought back to Israel, Stern would be charged on several counts of theft, fraud and misuse of his authority.

Kraus also said that former North American bank manager Hadassah Monsah would be investigated and might be charged with being Stern's accomplice.

Woman, 20, tells police 'I killed my infant'

GAZA (Itim).

A 20-year-old woman from Deir el-Balah in the Gaza Strip told police on Sunday night she had killed the child she had borne a few days ago. She claimed the father was her cousin who had reneged on his promise to marry her.

Fearing that her family would kill

her if they found out about her sexual relations and the birth, she buried the infant in a secret place.

But when the police went to the spot pointed out by the woman, they couldn't find a grave.

The woman and her cousin have been detained.

New device improves diagnosis of brittle bone disease

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A new device has been designed in Jerusalem that gives an early diagnosis of osteoporosis, a disease caused by loss of calcium. It affects mainly middle-aged women and makes their bones brittle.

The device can detect the disease much earlier than X-rays, which have been used until now.

The invention was disclosed yesterday at a medical symposium in Jerusalem by Prof. Ya'acov Menc-

zel, director of internal medicine at Hadassah-University Hospital.

The device measures the density of bone tissue in the thigh and wrist, parts of the body that are particularly susceptible to the disease. Menczel said at the symposium, whose theme was "Health Problems of Menopausal Women."

Osteoporosis begins to show up in women at the age of 45, and in men in the 55 and 60 age group. The disease, however, is much more frequent and serious in women because



After the crowd became violent following Housing Minister David Levy's speech at the Herut convention in Tel Aviv yesterday, Journalist Yossi Roth fell off the stage and broke his leg.

(Ilan Oseendyvet/TPPA)

FRACAS AND FURY

(Continued from Page One)

ters followed his every step, cheering, hugging and kissing him. At a gathering of his faction earlier in the afternoon, the deputy premier castigated his acting party leader Shamir for "not being able to decide, whatever peace offering we make. All he can say, over and over again, is that he must confer with his people," Levy jeered.

"Technical difficulties in issuing delegates' credentials produced one early hold-up. Another was caused by Levy supporter MK Micha Reisner's appeal to the Tel Aviv District Court to disqualify the La'am fac-

tion's 181 delegates. The court rejected the appeal and said the matter must be decided by the party elections committee. That body later ruled that 38 La'am names were indeed in doubt. The 38 are to vote in double envelopes, which will not be opened pending a final decision on their credentials.

The atmosphere was not unlike that of an American convention. Shamir supporters proclaimed their allegiance with badges reading "We're all one camp." Hot dogs and sauerkraut were on sale, with dollops of mustard, and the floor was littered with beer and soft drink cans.

IDF soldier who died in S. Lebanon buried in J'lem

Samal (Sergeant) Yisrael Sadan,

21, who was killed on Saturday night in a clash in the South Lebanon security zone, was buried yesterday in Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl cemetery.

Sadan (Naftha) was born and raised in the Beit Hakarem neighbourhood in the capital.

He was buried in the section with graves of those who died in the War of Independence, alongside his uncle, Moshe David Levano, who fell at the age of 17 in the fight for Wadi Ara.

Sadan was eulogized by his father, who also said kaddish.

The government was represented at the funeral by Minister-without-Portfolio Yosef Shapira.

Speaking at the graveside, Sadan's commanding officer said that he had killed one of the enemy gunmen, before a grenade exploded nearby and killed him.

Israel Television said last night that four gunmen had been killed in the fight, and not two as previously reported.

One of the three soldiers wounded in the Saturday night clash was yesterday released from the Nahariya Central Hospital.

The condition of another soldier has improved remarkably, a hospital spokesman said. The soldier has been transferred to Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot. (Itim)

Jerusalem gang arrested on stolen weapons charges

Jerusalem police on Sunday

arrested six members of an Arab gang suspected of dealing in stolen weapons which may have been used in several recent terrorist incidents.

Five Old City residents, all in their 20s, and a 70-year-old resident of the Jerusalem village of Beit Safafa, were arrested for illegal possession of hand guns. Police suspect that the gang may have sold arms to Palestinian terrorist groups.

A Jerusalem Magistrates' court judge yesterday extended two of the

suspect's remands for the maximum 15 days. The other four suspects will be brought before a judge today for extensions of their remands.

The Jerusalem police have sent the confiscated weapons for forensic testing to determine if they were indeed used in terrorist attacks.

Police yesterday said additional arrests are expected in the gun-dealing operation. They also said they are investigating whether the gang was dealing in stolen hand-grenades and explosives.

Search for Israeli arms 'held by Marcos backers'

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. - The Philippine

Army is looking for hundreds of Israeli-made Galil rifles and Uzi sub-machine-guns owned by a private army run by a crony of deposed president Ferdinand Marcos. The Washington Post reported yesterday.

The report, based on a conversation with the military commander of central Luzon, north of Manila, said the private army belonged to Eduardo Kogoangko, who had controlled coconut production in the Philippines and the country's largest business concern, San Miguel. Kogoangko is a distant relative of President Corazon Aquino, but fled the coun-

try with Marcos when Aquino took power.

The Luzon commander said Kogoangko's bodyguards had been armed with Israeli weapons and had been trained by Israelis on a western island of the Philippines.

The Israeli ambassador to the Philippines, Uri Gordon, asked about the Israeli arms, said: "If they're here, I don't know how they got here."

Gordon said he had heard reports about the training of Kogoangko's militia by Israelis in the past, but had not found that anyone in Israeli government service had carried out such training.

'Lavi may be delayed year'

Jerusalem Post Reporter

WASHINGTON. - The production

of the Lavi fighter plane may be delayed for a year, according to Defence Week, a Washington newsletter that deals with military matters. The story is based on a report by an American official.

Production was originally planned

to start at the end of 1990.

The newsletter also reports that an Israeli team is expected in the U.S. next month to discuss the plane's production costs. Israeli and U.S. calculations differ.

Tat-Aluf (Brig.-Gen.) Menahem Eini, who heads the Lavi project, is expected in Washington next week.

MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

'Assad to Amman'

AMMAN. - Syrian President Hafez Assad will visit the Jordanian capital this week, the Lebanese newspaper al-Shirra has reported.

Jordan rail link to Europe

AMMAN. - Jordan has allocated 30 million dinars (NIS 123m.) in its current five-year plan for the building of a railway from Amman to Dara that will link up with the railway networks of Turkey and Europe. The Jordanian paper al-Dustour has reported.

The railway is expected to cost 75m. dinars (NIS 308m.).

23 soldiers died in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP). - Twenty-three Egyptian soldiers were killed when the army quelled riots by the Central Security Force here late last month, reliable sources said yesterday.

In the disturbances a total of 107 people were killed and more than 700 were wounded.

Syria wants French arms

KUWAIT. - Syria is negotiating with France for the purchase of a variety of advanced weapons, the Kuwaiti newspaper al-Kabaa reported this week. Citing "knowledgeable sources" in Paris, the paper said that Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas discussed the purchases with French officials on a secret visit to Paris last week.

According to the sources, Tlas secretly visited Paris last December

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Undersea observatory for the Bahamas biggest Druse export

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The biggest Druse export in the history of the community, a 230-ton underwater observatory, is taking shape in Haifa port.

The \$800,000 structure is being built by the Kadmany Brothers Metal Works in Yotvata, Western Galilee, for the Coral World marine amusement park in Nassau, Bahamas.

Because the structure is too big to be transported to Haifa in one piece, the firm obtained part of a jetty from the port management for piece by piece on-site assembly.

Due to be completed in a month, the steel observatory, 38 metres high and 21 metres wide will be put into the water by a huge crane and towed out into the bay, where an American seabed-type freighter will float it on deck for the long trip.

The job, which has provided three months of work, is a feather in the cap for the Kadmany firm, which won the international tender against Israeli and foreign competition, including some companies much nearer the West Indian island.

Founded 15 years ago, the Yerka plant employs 250 workers, mostly Druse, though there are some Jews and Arabs. The firm also has two more factories in Beersheba, employing another 200 Jewish and Arab workers.

One of the owners, Suleiman Kadmany, told *The Jerusalem Post* that they specialize in petro-chemical and power-generating industrial construction.

The firm's turnover is about \$25 million annually, "and we have orders in hand to keep us busy for the next 14 months." They have not been hit by the recession because, "I believe we looked well ahead and planned accordingly," he said.

The Bahamas contract encouraged the firm to concentrate on establishing its export market, and it has now contacted a U.S. marketing firm. "I think you'll hear a lot about our exports to the U.S. in the near future," Kadmany predicted.

The observatory, which dwarfs the famous Eilat observatory, is planned by naval architect Moshe Drimer, of Haifa, and the interior



The underwater observatory being completed at Haifa port. (Israel Sun)

was designed by architect Ben Peleg. Drimer told *The Jerusalem Post* that he would be in Nassau to see the structure put in place and loaded down with 850 tons of ballast, sand and concrete.

With most of the berths at Haifa port vacant for most of the time, the port management had no difficulty in accommodating the work.

Leniency possible for hotel kashrut

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

If the mood at Hechal Shlomo is anything to go by, rabbis will not for much longer have the power to tell hotels that they must desist from Friday night parties if they want kashrut certificates.

For years, kashrut certificates, especially for hotels, have meant different things in different parts of Israel. In Jerusalem, where the rules have always been the strictest, hotels wanting the certificates have had to observe the Sabbath, at least in public, while in Tel Aviv the discotheques were jumping every night of the week.

Kashrut supervision has been most lenient in Eilat, where hotels seem to enjoy a freedom almost unheard of elsewhere. There, for example, hotels have been able to have a fully kosher kitchen in the hotel and a non-kosher restaurant, say, by the poolside.

In Jerusalem this is inconceivable. The city's late Ashkenazi chief rabbi Bezalel Zolti's strict demands were matched only by the eagerness of the non-Jewish manager of the Plaza Hotel to follow them, perhaps because in any case his hotel catered to ultra-Orthodox guests.

Hotels were told to stop registering guests at the front desk on Shabbat, to employ non-Jewish workers to carry out essential work on Shabbat and to install Shabbat elevators. One hotel that wanted to install an in-house video system was told that it could not use the system on Shabbat, because it would encourage Jews to transgress the laws of Shabbat observance.

Jerusalem hotels in particular still operate under these rules. They are afraid to challenge them for fear of losing their kashrut certificates, which have a double importance, for non-kosher hotels cannot cater for wedding ceremonies and thus lose a lucrative source of income.

But though the hoteliers have done little about it, the situation is changing, ironically because of the recently enacted Law to Prevent Fraud in Kashrut. The law was intended to halt the scandalous instances of non-kosher food being sold as kosher to unsuspecting clients. But, by its very nature, it limits kashrut supervision to the food itself, without reference to other aspects of the seller's business.

Of course, as Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira told *The Jerusalem Post* in a recent interview, kashrut supervision is a matter of trust. A rabbi may well indicate that he cannot trust a hotelier who publicly violates the Shabbat. But it is far from certain that the courts would accept such an argument, and unofficially the rabbinate has been advising its supervisors to go easy.

In practice, if the kashrut supervisor makes demands that the proprietor considers unfair, the Chief Rabbi can complain to the Chief Rabbinate. In at least one case, in which a supervisor objected to an Acre hotel's video system, supervision was transferred to another, more lenient, rabbi.

But in the final analysis, it will be an appeal to the High Court that will test the application of the new law, and so far, no such appeal has been lodged. But one reason for the rabbinates' soft treading is the fear that such an appeal would result in all its demands being rejected, apart, of course, from those concerned with food.

For the moment, the hotels are also lying low. Evidently no hotel is willing to forgo even the few months of wedding business which would be lost during an appeal to the High Court. But at the rabbinates, they believe such appeals are only a matter of time.

War veteran who was decorated in 1973 Rabbinical court ordered to show why he isn't a Jew

Russian-born Mordechai Koch yesterday won an order nisi from the High Court of Justice ordering the Interior Ministry and the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Court to say why he should not be considered a Jew and why his Israeli citizenship should not be returned to him.

Koch, 33, says he was born of Jewish parents in the USSR. When he was three, he and his family moved to Poland, where Koch says he attended a Jewish junior school. But the family were persecuted in Poland and came to Israel when he was 12. They were duly registered as Jews and received Israeli citizenship.

Koch's application to the court says that, while he was serving in the IDF, he received a letter from the Interior Ministry informing him that it did not consider him a citizen and was registering him as a Christian.

Koch says that his requests for clarification were ignored. He also says that when he sought to terminate his IDF service on the grounds that he was not regarded as a citizen, he was told that if he absented him-

self from service he would be regarded as a deserter and prosecuted. He completed his army service, was decorated during the Yom Kippur War, and served in the IDF during the Lebanon war. He says he received none of the usual benefits granted to IDF veterans.

Koch's application also says that he lives with, and has had two children by, Rachel Nagar. Despite his contention that he is Jewish, he nevertheless decided to ask the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Court to "convert" him. But the court refused to do this and refused to explain why it had rejected his application for conversion.

Koch also says that, in revoking his citizenship, the Interior Ministry has also denied him the right to vote in Knesset elections and the right to hold an Israeli passport.

Koch says that there is no evidence in the Interior Ministry that would refute the declaration by which his Jewishness was first established, and that he has been given no reasoned explanation of why his citizenship has been revoked. (Itim)

Nissim queries legality of Avnery trip to Jordan

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim yesterday publicly questioned the legality of Progressive List for Peace party chairman and Ha'olam Hazei editor Uri Avnery's recent visit to Jordan.

Nissim has asked his staff to verify reports that Avnery received official permission from the Interior Ministry and the Prime Minister's office for his February 27 trip.

Nissim's request to clarify circumstances surrounding Avnery's February 27 visit came despite confirmation from the Prime Minister's Office and the Interior Ministry that Avnery was given full permission for his Jordan trip.

"This is not a personal or political dispute between the minister and Prime Minister Peres," a Justice Ministry spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post*, "it's simply a question of legal procedure that the minister has asked to clarify."

According to Section 5 of the 1948 Defence Emergency Regulations an Israeli citizen or permanent resident is forbidden to visit an enemy country without the stamped permits from the Interior Ministry. If found guilty of an illegal visit to an enemy country, the offender may face up to one year in prison.

Avnery insisted on his return on Saturday night that he received permission in writing from the Interior Ministry with the prime minister's consent. Avnery is presently in the U.S.

Yediot Aharonot journalist Amnon Kapeliuk was charged and convicted last year under the 1948 law when he visited Amman on March 19 and April 4, 1985. A Jerusalem Magistrate's court imposed an NIS 800 fine for each visit.

Nissim referred to Avnery's trip during a general discussion of disre-

gard for Israeli law. The minister was speaking to reporters and spokesmen from the Government Information Centre yesterday in Jerusalem.

According to Nissim, "dangerous phenomena threaten to undermine the Israeli legal system nurtured from the Ottoman and Mandate rule."

"If we permit these phenomena to dominate our attitudes towards the law, I fear we will deteriorate to a state of anarchy," Nissim warned.

Nissim mentioned several examples of what he called "blatant and criminal disrespect" for the law. Referring to proposed anti-racist legislation now under debate in the Knesset, Nissim blasted "certain MKs and special interest groups" who threaten to disregard such laws if passed.

The Minister also condemned IDF soldiers who refuse, due to personal

and moral stands, to serve in the territories; as well as interest groups who threaten to defy court-issued injunctions.

"In a democratic society, we're all allowed freedom of thought, freedom of opinion and freedom to criticize," said Nissim. He added, however, that "our supreme allegiance is to the law, even if we are not always in complete agreement with it."

Nissim said that there are still many laws on the books left over from Ottoman and Mandate times that are outdated and do not satisfy the Israeli legal system or the Israeli way of life. "It is our goal to amend these laws so that, in a few years' time, we will have a totally original and unique Israeli legal system," said Nissim, adding, "It is my hope that Israelis will respect and abide by this system."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF



Three-year-old Nidal Diab of Tamra, in western Galilee, suffers from a rare type of rickets but can now attend kindergarten, thanks to home treatment by the Histadrut's health fund. Transfusion equipment to which the toddler is connected provides him with a calcium-rich solution for 20 hours each day, leaving him four hours for kindergarten. Doctors say he has a good chance of recovering. He is seen here with his father during a home visit by a health fund doctor and nurse.

Public wants second TV channel — Rubinstein

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — While the politicians continue to wrangle, the public has already voted for a second television channel by switching over to pirate cable TV en masse. Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein said yesterday.

The minister, who was the guest of Mayor Arye Gurel at City Hall, said the public had revolted against the monopoly of Israel TV which allowed a few people in Jerusalem to dictate what can or cannot be screened.

He said that on entering Haifa he had noticed that every building had cable TV wires stretched from its roof, sometimes dangling dangerously close to electricity lines.

The only solution, he said, was to pass the law for a second TV channel, which would also legalize cable TV and thus bring it under control.

Rubinstein: Gov't should not mind Haifa's business

HAIFA. — Neither the government nor the prime minister has the right to intervene in the Shabbat operation of Haifa's cable car, Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein said here yesterday.

Rubinstein, speaking at a reception at City Hall, said national coalition agreements were not binding on local authorities.

He was referring to attempts by the government and Prime Minister Peres to prevent Shabbat operation of the cable car for fear of upsetting religious parties in the coalition. Rubinstein said he had made his views known at a recent cabinet meeting.

Prisoner of Zion injured in 'accident'

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — Prisoner of Zion Yuli Edelstein has been injured in a "work accident," his mother reported from Moscow Sunday.

She told friends of his who spoke to her by phone from Israel that Soviet authorities had informed her that he "had his hip bone shattered in a work accident." She was told that he would have to be hospitalized for six months at least.

Edelstein was sentenced a year-and-a-half ago to three years' exile in Siberia on trumped-up drug charges. His friends here say they are extremely worried about his condition, as he has often been the target of sadistic beatings by police.

Negev weather station slated to shut down

By LIORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEERSHEBA. — The oldest meteorological station in the Negev is facing the axe, its director, Dov Mills, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

The Meteorological Service has decided to close the Beersheba station, which is located at Ben-Gurion University, for lack of funds, he said. Other Negev weather stations will continue to operate.

"The station was set up by the British in 1922," Mills said. "Even during World War II, the British kept it going. Why can't we?"

While the station's closing would not affect reports on major shifts in regional weather, subtle variations in the area may go unreported.

Two held in attack on Beersheba cab driver

BEERSHEBA (Itim). — Two residents of the Beduin village of Tel Sheva were remanded by the magistrates' court here in connection with the stabbing of cab driver Moshe Amsalem last week.

Police gave the court evidence linking the two men to the attack, but the suspects denied any connection.

Amsalem, 31, was attacked by two passengers Thursday evening as he was driving them towards Arad. He was wounded in the abdomen and chest.

Teachers delay strike during cooling-off period

By JOEL REBIBO and LEA LEVAVI

TEL AVIV. — The Histadrut Teachers' Union yesterday declared a labour dispute over salary erosion, after the Jerusalem Labour Court cancelled a temporary injunction against strike action by the union.

The injunction had been granted to the government late Sunday night after the union announced a one-day protest strike for yesterday over the agreement reached in the Jerusalem Labour Court earlier on Sunday between the government and the rival Secondary School Teachers' Association.

In return for cancellation of the injunction, the teachers promised not to strike immediately but to pursue their action according to law, i.e., by declaring a labour dispute and waiting the requisite 15-day cooling-off period.

The strike that would have shut down most of the country's kindergartens and elementary schools was called by Histadrut Teachers' Union secretary-general Yitzhak Wellber to protest against "the government's lack of good faith in bargaining" and to demonstrate that his union would not buckle under pressure.

His announcement was an impulsive reaction to a phone call from Shoshana Bayer, head of the rival Secondary School Teachers' Association, who called him from the Jerusalem Labour Court to inform him that her union had backed down from its threat to shut down the country's 12th grades and agreed to negotiation followed by arbitration.

The Histadrut union, which traditionally has been less militant in its demands than the association, reacted violently to the agreement for arbitration. "We object to arbitration on ideological grounds because we believe teachers' salaries should be a matter for negotiation," said Wellber. "I don't want any arbitrator to decide how much teachers should earn."

"Once an arbitrator makes his decision you have no choice but to accept it," explained another Histadrut official.

The association shares this fear of arbitration, but was given little choice by Labour Court Judge Nehemia Gutman.

Gutman was clearly prepared to allow the teachers to go on strike at the start of Sunday's three-hour court hearing. But once the Treasury produced a 1984 agreement — which the association signed — which provides a framework for settling disputes, the teachers were put on the defensive.

The agreement calls for negotiations to be followed by arbitration and Gutman was determined to press that it be observed fully.

It is difficult to understand why a two-year-old agreement seemed to take the judge by surprise, and why, with such an agreement in existence, schools had to be subjected to five months of sanctions and warning strikes. The Treasury's Rafi Kedem told *The Jerusalem Post* that both sides are reluctant to go to arbitration and that sanctions are a typical part of "negotiating."

The bone of contention between the Treasury and the teachers is how much teachers' wages eroded between 1983 and 1985 relative to engineers. The Treasury says the figure is 1.9 per cent. The teachers counter that it is 9 per cent.

"They [the government] offered us an erosion increment of almost 3 per cent and we refused it as insufficient," said Wellber. "Then, after asking us to negotiate jointly with the other union, they offer them 1.9 per cent with the rest open to arbitration."

The Treasury benefits from the disagreement between the union and the association and will be able to justify continued foot-dragging on wage negotiations because of it.

Though the issue dividing the unions is ostensibly arbitration, the real fight is who has the best interests of teachers at heart.

In a protracted battle the losers will be the schoolchildren and the rank and file teachers who have no interest in union politics.

Disgruntled cabbies say rise not enough

By YITZHAK OKED

TEL AVIV taxi-owners who were granted a 25 per cent fare increase this week, say that the rise is not enough, and are threatening protest action. They want an extra 35 per cent increase at least.

Last June taxi-drivers went out on a general strike because of dissatisfaction with the fares allowed them. The strike lasted a couple of weeks, during which the drivers disrupted traffic in the cities. They plan to take similar steps if their demands are not met.

At a press conference here yesterday, Shemtov Shemtov, secretary of the Jerusalem Taxi-owners Association, said "the average fare for a cab in a city is NIS 2. On such a NIS 2 fare, the taxi-owner must pay 15 per cent VAT, 20 per cent on fuel, 20 per cent for National Insurance. What remains does not even cover amortization, spare parts and repairs."

When journalists asked how, then, did taxi-drivers make a living, the reply was: "By breaking the law."

The drivers preferred not to reveal in what way this was done, other than to say that where possible they accept passengers only for distances which promise a fair profit.

Zvi Barzak, secretary of Haifa Taxi-owners Association, said that taxis were difficult to find these days, not because the drivers were so busy, but because it was not worthwhile working.

Barzak also pointed out that the *sheria* (shared-taxi) fares were also too low. "They are usually about the same as that for buses, and on many lines they are even cheaper than bus fares."

The taxi-owners, in addition to higher fares, want to be allowed to use minibuses that can seat at least 11 passengers. Today, they are allowed to take a maximum of seven passengers.

They are also calling for stipulating that every driver must be a member of the national organization through its city or regional branches. They claim that in this way they will

have better control over drivers and the public will have an address for complaints.

It is also urged that regional organizations be able to import taxis and spare parts and that the compulsory insurance for taxi drivers and their passengers be reduced; that a more economic way is found to fix the price for a taxi-owner licence (a green number); that the taxes on the sale of such a licence be cancelled; and that a special fund be established to enable taxi-owners to renew their fleet.

The owners want the "transportation basket" of all the expenses involved in operation of a taxi to be revised. They claim that this has not been done since the early 1970s.

The representatives of the taxi-men ended their press conference by calling on the defence minister to find ways to protect drivers. "We are now the target of terrorist attacks," said one of the speakers, citing the most recent incident, the stabbing of an Ofakim driver last week.

Car thief held after shootout with IDF

Jerusalem Post Staff

GAZA (Itim). — Police on Sunday evening arrested one of two Arabs believed responsible for stealing Israeli cars and selling them in the Gaza Strip. The suspect was wounded earlier that day in a shootout with an IDF patrol, in which a soldier was also slightly injured.

The two smugglers were spotted by the IDF patrol early Sunday morning trying to break through the security fence in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. The soldiers saw a Peugeot 404 parked suspiciously close to the fence, and as they approached it, the two men jumped into the car and drove through the opening.

The patrol opened fire, but the men escaped.

Later that evening a 26-year-old man checked into a Gaza hospital with a wound in his abdomen. Questioned by police, he admitted that he and a friend had been stealing cars and driving them to Gaza.

Israel, U.S. resume talks on ammunition stockpiles

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Israel and the U.S. appear to be close to an agreement on setting up ammunition stockpiles in Israel for the use of the U.S. armed forces. Talks on the subject are to resume this week in Israel.

Most of the legal and logistical problems were resolved in the previous round of talks in November and December. The main obstacle blocking an agreement is the question of Israel's role in the production of the artillery shells to be stockpiled.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

American Professors for Peace in the Middle East

invites professors on sabbatical to

A Special Briefing on Recent Developments in the Territories

by

Mr. Morris Draper

Consul General of the United States Consulate in Jerusalem
on Monday, March 17, 1986
at the Windmill Hotel, 3 Mende St., Jerusalem.
RSVP: 02-635733

The film at the

Orgil Cinema, Jerusalem:

TWICE IN A LIFETIME
with performances at 4.30, 7.00 and 9.00
and not as stated in last Friday's Magazine.

MINISTRY OF IMMIGRANT-ABSORPTION
THE JEWISH AGENCY
PUPILS AND STUDENTS AUTHORITY

MELTZ CENTRES FOR
JEWISH ZIONIST EDUCATION

Open Students Forum

ARAB-JEWISH RELATIONS:
Co-existence or Separatism?

will take place on Wednesday, March 12, 8 p.m. at
Bar-Ilan University Chemistry Building.

Greetings: Amnon Markov, Director-General, Students Authority.
Speakers: Morris Zilka, Director-General, Dept of Information, W.Z.O.
Ornel Schneller, Chairman, YESHA Council (Judea and Samaria)
Moderator: Dr. Ron Kronish, Director, Staff Training, Meltz Centres

and at

Haifa University, Students' Hostel, Kolman Levine Building,
64 Harita St., Naveh Sha'anani, Haifa, on Wednesday, March 12 at 8 p.m.

Speakers: Amira Sarantani MK, member of Kibbutz Mevharim
Ezer Argaman, Tehiya Movement

Moderator: Dr. Daniel Levine, Director, Meltz Centres The symposia will be followed by group discussions in Hebrew, English, French and Spanish.

Meltz Centres for Jewish Zionist Education,
19 Yishai St., Abu Tor, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-716840.

Remains of astronauts recovered from ocean

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida. — Some remains of Challenger's astronauts and crew cabin debris have been recovered from the ocean floor, space centre sources say, but NASA said it will respect family wishes and not comment until the operation is completed.

That could take several days, officials said in announcing Sunday that the remains had been found in the shuttle wreckage 30 metres below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean about 32 kilometres northeast of Cape Canaveral.

Some remains had already been brought ashore and taken to Patrick Air Force Base, about 40 km. south of Cape Canaveral, a source said yesterday.

The shuttle blew up 72 seconds after its launch from Cape Canaveral on January 28.

The source said relatives of schoolteacher-astronaut Christa McAuliffe and the six other crew members had been informed of the discovery. NASA would make no more comments on the crew until the recovery was completed, he said.

Sources had disclosed earlier that salvage crews had fished up astronauts' personal effects from the surface of the Atlantic, including a flight helmet and lesson materials. McAuliffe was to have used in a teacher-in-space project. (AP, Reuters)

Sweden stands to attention to honour Palme's memory

STOCKHOLM (AP). — A thousand trains stopped and work halted throughout the country yesterday as Sweden, a nation with no tradition of state mourning, observed a minute of silence in memory of assassinated Prime Minister Olof Palme.

Thousands of Stockholmers filled the street where Palme was killed February 28, many weeping silently as they stood at noon facing a rose-covered unofficial memorial and its burning flame.

"Let us never give up the fight against hunger and injustice, never give up the struggle against violence, for peace and freedom," Centre Party leader Karin Soder told a memorial session of parliament that began with the silent minute.

"Let this be our way of honouring Olof Palme," she said. Her party opposed Palme's Social Democrats in the parliament.

Palme's widow Lisbet, 55, who was grazed by a bullet in the attack on her husband, sat with the Palmes' three grown sons at the quiet memo-

rial in the sleek yellow wood legislative hall.

It was her first public appearance since her husband was shot in the back with a .357 Magnum revolver as she and he walked home unguarded from a Stockholm movie theatre.

The memorial minute was the largest such gesture of mourning ever given in Sweden.

The Swedish national railroad had made elaborate plans to stop at least 1,000 trains for yesterday's silent minute, making sure, for instance, that heavily loaded freight trains would not be on steep grades and unable to stop at the stroke of noon.

Swedish motorists had been told that they too could observe the silent minute, as long as they brought their cars carefully to a stopping place.

At the parliament, a bouquet of yellow daffodils marked Palme's empty seat in the legislature hall. A string ensemble played, and a choir from Stockholm's Great Church cathedral sang the American Negro spiritual *Deep River*.



Ubaloi tribesmen in the Philippines roast a pig that they slaughtered on top of a 27-metre monument of deposed president Ferdinand Marcos, while a tribal elder dances to ward off evil spirits. The tribesmen, who are pressing for the return of ancestral lands appropriated by the Marcos government in 1979, decided to hold the ritual instead of blasting the concrete bust located on a highway leading to Baguio City. (AFP telephone)

Book on Reichstag fire causes row

BONN (Reuters). — A fierce row has flared among historians over a new book exonerating Nazi leaders of blame for a fire which burned down the German Parliament building in 1933 and gave Hitler a pretext to tighten his grip on power.

The book, written by six leading West German historians, says the arson attack on the Reichstag was the work of a single Dutch communist and that past researchers used falsified documents in order to show that the Nazis masterminded the whole affair.

The work was presented by its authors at a news conference in Bonn that was frequently interrupted by heated questioning from rival historians.

The book *The Reichstag Fire* —

Solving an Historical Myth identifies Marinus van der Lubbe, a young member of a Dutch communist grouping who was beheaded by the Nazis for the fire, as the sole culprit.

The huge 19th-century Reichstag was consumed by fire on February 27, 1933, four weeks after Hitler became chancellor.

The blaze was used by the Nazis as an excuse to eliminate the German Communist Party as a political force, arrest left-wing opponents and strip parliament of its powers.

An international group of historians known as the "Luxembourg Committee" has published several studies asserting that the Nazis used Van der Lubbe as a tool in their plot to impose a total dictatorship on Germany.

The group's leading historian, eminent Swiss professor Walter Hofer, said in a statement: "The sole purpose of the new publication is to discredit our sound documentary evidence that the National Socialists originated the 1933 Reichstag fire."

Hofer said the book was aimed at reviving a "long disproved" myth that the Nazis were innocent of blame.

The authors of the new book maintain that the Hofer group used witness reports full of contradictions.

The West German historians said they were also suspicious of the Hofer group because they had always denied other historians access to the documents they had used.

Weekend violence claims 24 in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — Seven blacks died in clashes with police in the tribal homeland of Lebowa, bringing the death toll to a weekend of violence in South Africa, to 22, police said yesterday.

Nine victims were killed in tribal clashes in Natal province on Sunday, while a further six people died in protest violence in South Africa's black townships.

The continuing violence followed President P.W. Botha's statement last week that the unrest situation had improved sufficiently to lift the partial state of emergency imposed in July.

Nine people were killed Sunday in fighting between Zulu factions, a police spokesman in Durban said.

He said several firearms were confiscated following the violence, suspected to be over a dispute concerning a woman. He gave no further details.

Tribal fighting has claimed hundreds of lives in Natal Province. Many of the clashes have been over land in the overcrowded area.

A youth was found hacked to death in a black township near Cookhouse in the Eastern Cape, one of the areas worst hit by the two years of black protest violence which has now claimed nearly 1,170 lives, police headquarters said. Many have been killed by police.

In the same area, a man was shot dead by police after he hurled a petrol bomb at a house, police said. A woman passer-by was slightly injured, they added.

Arson, stone-throwing and petrol-bombing were reported in other parts of the country.

Of the 36 districts in which the state of emergency was imposed to combat rioting last July, many were in the Eastern Cape, a part of South Africa that has been badly affected by the country's worst post-war recession.

Emergency rule affected about one-third of South Africa's 33 million inhabitants. During the months that it was in force, an estimated 750 people died in black townships and nearly 8,000 people were detained without trial.

Pinochet resumes emergency powers

SANTIAGO (Reuters). — President Augusto Pinochet yesterday renewed sweeping emergency powers to arrest and exile opponents without trial, and a leading opposition journalist announced that his son had disappeared.

Edwin Harrington, a former editor of the hard-hitting magazine *Cauce*, said his 19-year-old son Rafael disappeared Sunday, apparently the victim of a political abduction, after buying medicine for his mother.

Under Harrington's editorship, *Cauce* specialized in investigative stories exposing scandals involving Pinochet, his family and the government in general. The magazine was closed for eight months in 1984 and 1985.

Pinochet's controversial emergency powers, which make opponents liable to arrest for up to three weeks, banishment within Chile or exile abroad without charge, were renewed by a decree published in the *Official Gazette* yesterday.

The decree extends for a further six months the "state of threat to internal peace."

Halley's Comet is shrinking, Japanese say

TOKYO (Reuters). — Halley's Comet is shrinking by an estimated 50 tons a second as it swings around the sun, according to Japanese scientists.

Prof. Tomizo Ito at Japan's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science said the institute's space probe monitored a hydrogen cloud around the nucleus and collected data on material thrown off by it.

The probe, dubbed "suisei" (comet), made its closest pass at a distance of about 150,000 kilometres on Saturday night, Ito said, adding: "We have made observations completely as scheduled. We've been successful."

The preliminary findings have shown that the comet appeared to be getting slimmer, losing about 50 tons of water per second, at the time of the observation," Ito said.

52 political prisoners prefer Philippines jail

MANILA (Reuters). — At least 52 of more than 800 political prisoners ordered released by President Corason Aquino want to stay in jail, the Philippine News Agency said yesterday.

"Rather than go home... these detainees prefer to stay inside their detention centres," the state-run news agency said. It quoted army Col. Marcel Blando as saying, "perhaps they find it safer here."

Haifa host Red Devils

Post Sports Staff
Britain's most illustrious soccer club will be seeking to shrug off their current doldrums through an encounter with the Israeli sunshine and Israel's top club, Manchester United (a.k.a. Red Devils) are due to meet here this evening in order to play an enticing friendly against the league champions Maccabi Haifa at Kiryat Eliezer tomorrow at 5 p.m.

United were due to have taken up the Haifa invitation for a match here Monday, but the awful winter, in Britain has wreaked havoc with the fixture list and a postponed league match has been slotted into that date. After United's surprise defeat in the F.A. Cup by West Ham on Sunday, they found themselves with a few days free, and manager Ron Atkinson immediately approached Haifa, who were only too willing to arrange the game.

Bryan Robson apart, United are expected with all their star-studded team. The England captain, who has had a miserable season because of injury, is again side-lined.

Haifa's coach Shlomo Shari said he would reinforce his team with Uri Malmilian of Betar Jerusalem for the match against the English cupholders.

The price of tickets ranges from NIS 10 to NIS 20, the Haifa club management announced.

Shlomo out quickly

Post Sports Staff
Shlomo Glickstein was handily beaten yesterday by South African Christo Steyn in the first round of the \$300,000 Milan Grand Prix Tennis Tournament. The South-African dispatched Glickstein in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2, in little more than an hour.

Eighty-seeded Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden moved into the second round when he crushed American Marc Flur 6-4, 6-4.

But Yugoslav's Marco Ostja had to fight harder to overcome Spain's Jose Lopez Manero in the only game of the afternoon to go to three sets, 6-4, 6-7, 6-2.

In Davis Cup play, Italy took a winning 3-1 lead in their world group first round tie when Claudio Panatta beat Paraguay's Hugo Chapau in straight sets in yesterday's first reverse singles.

Italy qualified to meet titleholders Sweden in the quarter-finals from July 18-20.

Other teams to make the quarter-finals are the U.S., Australia, Belgium, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, but Mexico versus West Germany remains to be decided.

Gervin 7th among all-time pro soccers

NEW YORK (AP). — The game paired the New York Knicks and Chicago Bulls, two teams that probably won't make the NBA playoffs, but the small crowd in attendance was treated to a vintage game from a vintage player: George Gervin.

The 35-year-old guard scored 27 points, helping the Bulls capture a 114-104 victory, and in the process he jumped into seventh place on the all-time pro scoring list.

Gervin, who now has 26,397 points, moved past former Boston Celtics star John Havlicek, who scored 26,395. Gervin said he would like to pass Oscar Robertson for sixth place before he retires.

The Philadelphia 76ers became the fourth team to mathematically clinch a playoff spot (after Boston, Milwaukee, and the Los Angeles Lakers), as they snapped a three-game losing streak with a resounding 120-102 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

Elsewhere, it was Denver 123, Los Angeles Clippers 121; Dallas 117, Sacramento 102; LA Lakers 108, Seattle 106; and New Jersey 115, Phoenix 111.

Hat Trick

INGLEWOOD, California (AP). — Glenn Anderson scored three goals and added two assists and Jari Kurri had two goals to lead the Edmonton Oilers to their seventh straight win, posting a 7-3 National Hockey League victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

In Buffalo, Gil Perreault scored the 500th regular season goal of his NHL career and Doug Smith scored the winning goal as the Sabres beat the New Jersey Devils 4-3.

In Chicago, Steve Larmer scored two goals, including the 150th of his career, to lead the Blackhawks to a 4-2 victory over the St. Louis Blues.

In other NHL action, the Philadelphia Flyers scored four first-period goals to bounce the New York Rangers 4-1, the Winnipeg Jets beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-3, and the Detroit Red Wings and Calgary Flames played to a 3-3 tie.

Rear-guard action

Post Sports Staff
As play resumes this morning on the fourth day of the second cricket Test in Trinidad, England are hanging on by their fingernails.

Before yesterday's rest day, they fought back grimly during the last two sessions of the third day to give themselves a fighting chance of saving the match in face of the West Indian fast-bowling onslaught.

David Gower (47) and Graham Gooch (43) put on 80 for the second wicket, and after they were both out, Willey and Lamb continued the dogged rear-guard action.

Scores: England 176 and 168-3; WI 99.

Sayre wins first LA run

LOS ANGELES (Reuters). — Ric Sayre of the U.S. won the first Los Angeles Marathon with a personal best time of 2 hours 12 minutes 59 seconds.

Gidamis Shahanga of Tanzania placed second with a time of 2:13:27, and Rod Dixon of New Zealand, winner of the 1983 New York City Marathon was third in 2:14:48.

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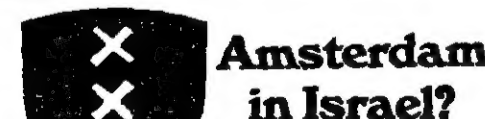
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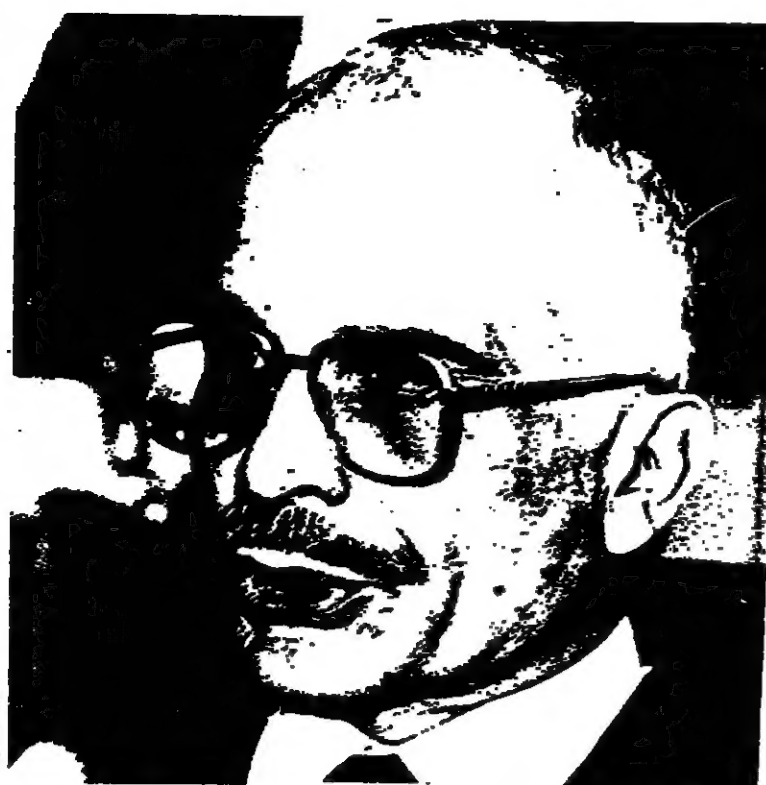
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A plea to King Hussein from The Jerusalem Post's Hirsh Goodman

Putting it to a vote



gesture that will be perceived here as genuine and not connected to his political future. The Palestinians are intimidated by the callous madness of the rejectionists, who have consistently warped Palestinian sanity with the assassin's bullet; President Hosni Mubarak is consumed by his own internal problems. The Americans are powerless to act without your leadership. Only you, Your Majesty, have the power to break the deadlock. But do you have the courage?

I DO not say this lightly for I am aware of the terrible complications that will result from any move you might make. I am aware that your own life is as vulnerable as that of Zafer el-Masri and Issam Sartawi; that despite the ostensible rapprochement between yourself and Syria's President Hafez Assad, you have much to fear from your volatile and unpredictable neighbour to the north; and that the injection of 1.3 million nationalistic Palestinians, who want their own flag and their

own anthem, into your realm of responsibility could threaten the Hashemite dynasty. Above all, I understand that you do not want to be the Arab ruler to go down in history as having lost Jerusalem.

These, however, are not necessarily the alternatives to enmity. Risks, yes; but not logical "musts." There has to be a middle course of action, where benefit will outweigh risk. In order to find the mechanism for movement, one need not think in terms of total solutions, but partial ones that together will allow for a period of mutual trust, building toward an ultimate solution.

The urgent goal of the moment is not to find a solution, but to initiate a dialogue. It will constitute a rallying point for those who are beginning to lose hope, and serve as a counterweight to the gospel of hatred and despair spread by the obdurate and myopic.

THE INITIATIVE by Your Majesty that will force an Israeli response and will serve as a means of ending the imbroglio is a call from you for free, open and internationally guaranteed elections for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza to choose their own leadership to sit down at the negotiating table.

Since the majority of the world's Palestinians would take part in the elections, the results would be morally and politically unimpeachable. For the first time there would be an inviolable consensus as to whom the Palestinians want and trust to negotiate on their behalf.

one can assume that those interested in fostering darkness will be contained.

The elections will be a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Once the Palestinians have elected their representatives, the parties to the conflict can discuss the methodology of progress, whether negotiations will follow the guidelines of the Camp David Accords, or whether the talks will be referred to an international forum and exactly what format this would take.

Almost immediately, the elected Palestinians, who in a sense constitute a *de facto* Palestinian government, could begin to assume real powers of autonomous expression whereby they, and not the occupying forces, would mould the norms of life in the territories. This would not only serve to prepare a basis for self-rule, but would also limit the necessarily destructive day-to-day contact between the Israeli army and the inhabitants of the territories and would lay the foundations for the building of future trust. Moreover, it would provide a positive, constructive and legitimate vehicle for Palestinian self-expression, taking Palestinian nationalism out of "the underground" and into the mainstream negotiating process.

MY SUGGESTION, Your Majesty, is not without flaws. Neither is it without dangers. But I see no realistic alternative. Instead, I see a growing dialogue between yourself and Hafez Assad, and a growing chasm between the youth of my country and those we occupy. I cannot see a total solution at this point, but I know that just because we cannot see a blaze of light at the end of the tunnel, it doesn't mean that we should be content with darkness.

It is sad testimony to my lack of trust in my country's leaders that I appeal to you to be courageous, to take the risks and to throw down the gauntlet of peace. But in the circumstances that have evolved, fate has placed you virtually alone in a realistic position to unlock the door to a future of hope. May God speed your hand.



Nabiin and Mount Gerizim (Pictorial Journey through the Holy Land, 1963)

Among the Samaritans

DENNIS SILK

ON THE window fronting the street: Jacob ben Ussi, the Samaritan High Priest. Now isn't that forthright? Nothing sneaky, "not a pompous High Priest entering by a secret door."

Refinement, humour, spontaneity and melancholy marked the High Priest. He spoke without much preamble. He was 91 and life had been hard from the start. There'd been that awful First World War, he hadn't done much good as the High Priest, he'd had so many people to deal with. Now his grandfather there on the wall - indicating a photo - he'd been somebody. Anything I needed to ask? One thing he'd say, the Samaritans are the true Israelites. Of course, Gerizim was the authentic temple.

The authentic temple. But it hasn't been there a long time. This notion of a temple *in vacuo*, and that will remain *in vacuo*, is so attractive. I could walk a long cool day around the notion of a temple with such a modest and tremulous High Priest.

He spoke in the post-67 Hebrew he'd picked up, and in English. Then what did the Samaritans use with each other? Arabic, we're living among speakers of Arabic.

Now I asked a silly question. You Samaritans are such an old people, don't you get flustered by all these footloose moderns? He looked at me in alarm. No politics, he said.

The priest Abd-Muin Sadaqa Samari strode through a pleasant somewhat rooted dream. From the top of Gerizim he pointed out Hermon (Up in the North, a long way off, Mount Hermon's got its winter cough, the Shiite rhyme says). He smiled triumphantly at my surprise. Gerizim, is it a good mountain? A very good one, I said.

The Samaritans hung out under Gerizim. They took a deep breath before the Book of Joshua. Not for us, they said. And the sulky prophets? Good enough for the Judeans. Then what about those later talkers? Too many rooms added on by a bumbling architect. Moses' mild five are enough for us. So they hung out under Gerizim. Mild people.

They put up their temple here. John Hyrcanus knocked it down. Then someone put up a pagan temple here. Copycat. Didn't that happen somewhere else? There's altogether too much doubling in this region. Temples knocked down, temples put up, two middles of the world (how disorienting), two tombs for Christ. Unity can't take the strain and forks into duality. Embarrassing.

But I liked it up here on Gerizim. It was an airy place with lots of holes. (They dropped a Byzantine church in this one.) A high-flying angel spiralled down in the nick of time for Isaac. Here the priests stand for the slaughter of the Pascal lambs. We considered the troughs for the slaughter. Poor City of David, it could be dropped, bleating, into one of these troughs.

And Sadaqa Samari had intelligent eyes - Talmudic eyes I'd have said but I don't want to offend him. I asked this friendly man about Samaritan poetry. He himself, he responded, was a poet. He'd written three long poems: one about Moses and Aaron - a biography. He tried out this modern word on me, did I know what it meant? - one about secrets, one about names. The names poem was quite special. With his index finger he pointed at sky. Nor was he the only poet among the Samaritans.

Back in his parlour he offered me liqueur chocolates. Israel's best, he remarked. He'd taken off his priestly outer garment, and discovered an ample burgher-like waistcoat. He showed me the superfluous prophets and a set of Mishna. We don't believe in them but it's important we read them so we can answer back. In his names poem, written out in the patient Arabic of a scribe, he pointed to a passage on the oak at Mamre. Wish I could have read it, Sadaqa Samari.

Minyan in a mosque

Abraham Rabinovich visits the Tomb of the Patriarchs at prayer time

THE head-high partitions surrounding the congregation in Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs on Sabbath eve do not obstruct the fact that the Jewish prayer service is being held in a mosque.

An Islamic prayer niche and pulpit are visible over the partition and if one bends to knee level to look beneath the movable grey dividers one can see the bare feet of men on prayer rugs kneeling towards Mecca even as the Jews on their side of the room pray towards Jerusalem.

The seed of Ishmael and the seed of Isaac praying together in the same room near the tomb of their mutual ancestor - a fantastic notion that for the past month has been a bizarre reality.

On both sides of the partition, armed Israeli soldiers sit on folding chairs and quietly pray to themselves that both congregations will finish their devotions without the need for military intervention to keep them apart. "This situation is absolutely unbelievable," says one soldier, nodding at the kneeling men and the swaying men on opposite sides of the thin partition.

Bowing to pressure from the Jewish settlers in Kiryat Arba, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin last month authorized the extension of the Jewish prayer area in the Tomb of the Patriarchs into the room housing the cenotaphs of Isaac and Rebecca (the actual tombs, according to tradition, are in a sealed-off cave below). The largest of the three rooms containing the tomb-like cenotaphs of the three patriarchs and their wives also serves as a mosque, and has hitherto been barred to Jewish prayer.

The change has been categorized as a temporary one aimed at providing the large Jewish congregation a suitable Sabbath venue until the end of the winter. Until now, the growing congregation has been spilling over into the building's central courtyard because the two rooms that had previously served as synagogues -

those containing the cenotaphs of Abraham, Sarah, Jacob and Leah - had become overcrowded.

Attempts to cover the courtyard with canvas for these prayer sessions have not succeeded in protecting the worshippers from rain and cold. The permission for Jews to pray in the mosque on the Sabbath is to expire at the end of this winter but, against the background of the steady accretion of Jewish rights within the structure since 1967, there are many who are dubious about that deadline.

THE DISPUTE between the Jews and the Moslems over access to the Tomb of the Patriarchs illustrates more vividly than any other the rivalry over Abraham's heritage between his Semitic offspring. It was in the 18th century BCE, the Patriarchal age according to scholars, that Abraham paid Ephron the Hittite 400 silver shekels for the Cave of Machpela "in Kiryat Arba, that is Hebron" to serve as a family burial site. Some 1,800 years later, Herod, king of Judaea, enclosed the traditional cave site with the 12-metre-high walls that still stand. The Byzantines would subsequently build a church within the enclosure walls and the site would alternate with the shifting tides of conquest between mosque and church until the final expulsion of the Crusaders left it in Arab hands.

In recent centuries, Jews were barred by the Moslem - and British mandatory - authorities from entering the building; the closest they could pray was at an outside staircase. Following the conquest of Hebron by the Israeli army in the Six Day War, this situation changed. With the flair that marked his stint as defence minister, Moshe Dayan worked out an arrangement with the Moslem authorities six weeks after the war that would permit Jewish access to the holy site on a basis the Arabs could live with, however grudgingly. Jews and other non-

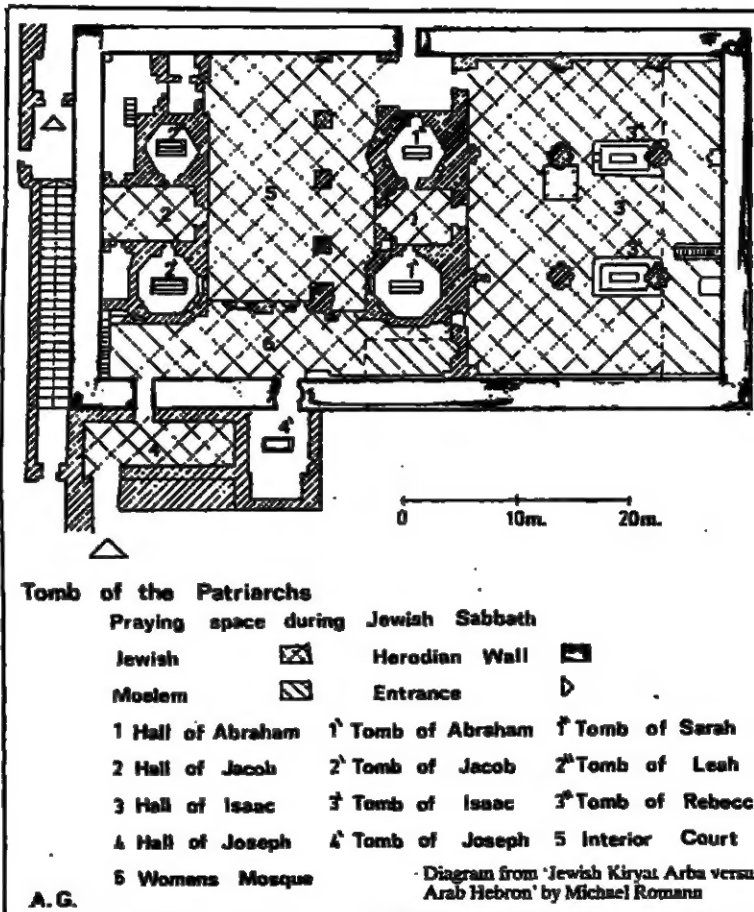
Moslems would be permitted to visit the site but only at fixed hours that did not interfere with Moslem prayers. Non-Moslems would be requested to wear modest attire. The muezzin would be permitted to call the faithful to prayer five times a day. Dayan decided not to compel Jews to remove their shoes when entering the building, because that would have meant that the Jews regarded the site as a Moslem holy place and not a Jewish holy place. Instead, he sought to ensure that the Jews would avoid Moslem praying areas within the sprawling building.

Dayan had foreseen Jewish visitors praying informally at the Tomb of the Patriarchs but had not anticipated a demand for formal prayer services. When such services began he was unwilling to stop them. New arrangements were then worked out for Jewish prayers to be held at fixed locations and at fixed hours.

The arrangements permit much overlapping. Between formal prayer sessions both Arab and Jewish women, for instance, can be seen privately praying at the same time at the tomb of Leah.

Under the new arrangements in Isaac's Hall, in which the Moslems pray only on Fridays, Wakf employees roll up the prayer rugs covering the bulk of the hall at 4 p.m. The dividers are put up to separate this space from the southern and eastern ends of the room where the prayer rugs remain on the floor for the Moslem prayers. The edges of the rugs closest to the dividers are folded back so that the soldiers who will separate the two congregations during prayer can walk to their posts without treading on the rugs.

The reservist army officer in command of the Tomb guard on a recent Friday night decided to keep the border police contingent outside the building and to let his own men cope with any possible flareup. "We're all older guys," said one soldier. "Some of us are fat, some skinny, and we



look funny, but you need mature people for a job like this. The Arabs here appreciate that, too."

AT THIS time of year, evening prayers for both Moslems and Jews in Hebron are at the same time, about 5:30. Shortly before, the short muezzin enters a small corner room, switches on his Israeli-made loudspeakers and calls the faithful to prayer. As if in response, several hundred residents of Kiryat Arba and the new Jewish settlement in Hebron, including a number of women and small children, come striding in. The Kiryat Arba residents have walked three kilometres and many are armed with rifles which they carry into the mosque-synagogue as nonchalantly as prayer shawls.

Only about half a dozen Moslem worshippers came one night recently for evening prayers and they were out-

numbered by the 10 Wakf employees maintained there round the clock. There was no communal chanting on the Moslem side and only the sound of Jewish prayer filled the hall. Both sides finished their prayers and departed the building without incident.

"I've seen both sides leaving the hall at the same time and one of the Jews asking one of the Arabs when he was coming to finish the repairs he was doing on his house," said a soldier. "They're coming out from behind a partition where each was praying to his God and talking about home repairs. It was as if this is the most natural thing in the world. It's all unreal."

On the surface, the scene seemed like an ecumenical fantasy, but both Jews and Moslems understood the difference between praying alongside one another and praying together.

Washington and Israel may think, we think it cannot detract from the basic fact that real peace will only come to the land of Palestine when Israel withdraws from the occupied territories and the Palestinians enjoy all their human and political rights, notably the right to self-determination. By whistling the old tune of allowing the Palestinians more control over their own lives, Mr. Peres simply puts off the day when he has to deal with the reality and the justice of what the Palestinians demand.

The above editorial appeared on Sunday, March 2, 1986.

Boulevard, just off the main square. It should not be confused with a rather fancier place next door. Naturally we ordered humous, which we could see being prepared in the kitchen. It was mellow and smooth as it should be and distinctly sour, with a sprinkling of bright red sumac on top to accentuate the lemony taste. The acidity was tempered by green, natural olive oil.

Along with this we tried the feta, oblong cylinders, delicately flavoured with cinnamon, an unusual and delicious taste experience. We also shared a salad of tomatoes and cucum-

bers in tehina. My mentor insisted that the tomatoes are very special indeed, having come from non-irrigated fields, but to my urban palate they tasted good, but were not exceptional.

I could also not resist trying a dish of tiny meatballs, simmering in a thin broth of tehina, again with a generous seasoning of lemon. This, too, was delicious, as were the pickles and the pitot.

The bill for two, including soft drinks, came to exactly NIS 10.

The Middle East is edited by Yehuda Liliat.

'Laboured old tune'

An editorial from the Jordan Times

nous populations of the Oriental, Asiatic or Banana-exporting bent.

The fact that the senior Labour leader in Israel should be able to come up with nothing more substantial than this hackneyed old non-policy is disappointing, but perhaps not surprising. What is perhaps less disappointing, however, is the news from Israel that the latest public opinion poll shows the Labour Party winning 55 seats should a parliament-

tary election be held this week, against 30 seats for the Likud bloc. We say this is less disappointing because some of us around here still entertain the possibility that a Labour-led Israeli government may be more amenable to starting meaningful negotiations designed to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully and to the satisfaction of all concerned. The fact that Labour would win 55 seats in parliament,

A forbidding front

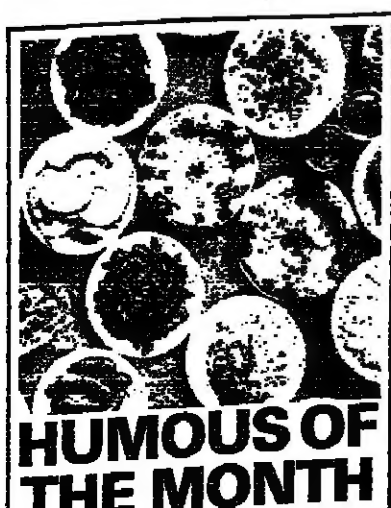
HAIM SHAPIRO

THE SEARCH for the perfect humous is an arduous one, taking one into the nooks and crannies of towns and villages. It is not a job for the timid.

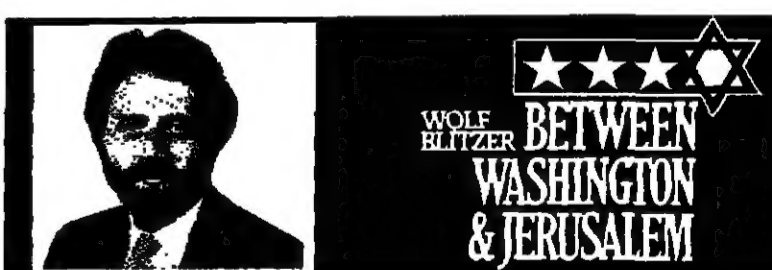
For example, if I had not been assured by my mentor, an experienced gastronome, who has wiped many a plate of humous with his pita, I would not have

even walked into al-Ikissad in the centre of Ramallah. Dark and forbidding, with joints of raw meat hanging out in front of the sidewalk, it was not the sort of place that would attract the chance visitor.

The restaurant, which is not identified in any language other than Arabic, is located on Radio



HUMOUS OF THE MONTH



Perhaps the best informed and most authoritative journalist on American-Israeli relations, The Jerusalem Post's Washington Bureau Chief Wolf Blitzer reveals the inside story from his perspective on Capitol Hill.

The author gives special emphasis to the way decisions are made in Washington and the varied roles of the foreign policy bureaucracy, Congress, the press, the American Jewish community, the Arabs and their supporters, and the official Israeli presence. The book brims with fascinating vignettes of key individuals, devoting entire chapters to Henry Kissinger, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, with each one's personal experiences with Israel.

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A miracle? Not exactly, though St. Peter's fish was a part of the New Testament miracle of the fish and the loaves. Now, 2,000 years later, the fish is making a fresh start in the New World.

Taken out of its fresh-water habitat during the night, the fish are transported in air-filled water tankers to a new processing factory in Beit She'an. There they are killed with a blow of frozen air, cleaned, gutted, filleted and packed on ice. That same afternoon they are ready for transport to Ben-Gurion Airport where they are loaded on El Al jets and arrive in New York or Atlanta the next morning. Just 36 hours have elapsed by the time the fish are on supermarket shelves.

The Dag Shan processing plant — responsible for this achievement — has come into its own. Nevertheless, it took a lot of effort to bring exports to \$600,000 last year, after only two years of operation, with the expectation of close to \$2 million worth of exports this year.

Talk of exports often conjures up images of computerized factories with operators working on sophisticated machinery. The Dag Shan plant is not exactly like that, and though its staff wear white jackets and hats, they still have to get their hands dirty.

The Dag Shan plant, according to factory manager Yisrael Snir of Kibbutz Neve Eitan, "is one of the most sophisticated fish-processing factories in the world." Nevertheless, the plant has filleting machines rusting outside because experience has shown that a worker skilled with a knife does the job more effectively.

Fish breeding in ponds is an advanced industry in this country. Primarily using salt water that has no other agricultural use, this industry produces up to 12,000 tons of fish from 30,000 dunams of ponds. The ponds are operated by 70 kibbutzim and a small number of villages.

According to Amnon Levin, secretary of the Fish Breeders' Union, "We reviewed the industry in the late 1970s and realized that we

Local fish make good

St. Peter's fish are flying out of the sea and into American frying pans at an amazing rate, Ya'acov Friedler reports.

can produce more fish with our intensive breeding methods; the country's demand for fresh fish had topped out and to keep advancing we needed to establish new markets." These new markets were established with the help of modern air travel that makes it possible to fly fresh fish around the world.

The Union decided to establish a processing plant and chose Beit She'an both because the town needs the jobs and also because one-third of the fish ponds, as well as the Sea of Galilee, are concentrated within 30 km. of the town.

All the fish breeding settlements are partners in this factory, which took an initial investment of over \$3.5 million. It started operating in January 1983 and now employs 50 people, many of them women from Beit She'an. Average take-home pay is about NIS 450 (about \$300) monthly.

Factory manager Snir said that although the pay is not very much, "we are here to stay and not pie-in-the-sky." Snir pointed out that one "sophisticated" motor company that was lured to Beit She'an by the area's incentives soon moved to Samaria where the incentives were better. He also referred to a zipper factory that just picked up and left the country after spending their incentive grants. By contrast the Dag Shan factory, he maintained, is only likely to grow.

Israel's fish breeding started half-a-century ago in order to breed carp for gefilte fish. But with the change of the country's demographics, the breeders have seen the demand for carp decline and have been concen-

trating on developing St. Peter's fish as their fish of the future, along with grey mullets and silver carp which all share the ponds peacefully.

Today, St. Peter's fish accounts for 4,500 tons annually, more than one-third of the plant's total production. Of this, 2,000 tons of St. Peter's fish are processed in the factory for the local and export markets. The fish is very bony and housewives prefer it boned and easy to cook.

Exports presently comprise one-third of the factory's output, and next year Snir expects this figure to rise to one-half of the plants total output.

"We have taken great care not to antagonize the American fishermen and aquaculture farms," Snir said. "St. Peter's fish is simply no competition for them because it is not raised in the U.S."

In order to export to the U.S., the factory must conform to the very high standards set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dag Shan has also had to spend \$100,000 on a marketing effort in order to get American sales off the ground. Snir is pleased with the way sales are going, and estimates that things can only get better in the virtually unlimited American market.

"Our hands are full with orders and we are limited in getting enough fish there on time," Snir said. "And with Israel's sky-high interest rates our breeders can't afford to keep fish 'on store' in their ponds until we can process them," he said. The price freeze inside Israel also makes things rather difficult.

The factory is not a profit-making



(Werner Braun)

concern and mainly serves the fish breeders by helping expand their markets. "If we can somehow reduce prices by 10 to 15 per cent then we could really take off," Snir said.

This involves breeding more fish, which is quite feasible but difficult because of the high cost of money.

Meanwhile, new products have been developed in this factory which

considers itself the "pioneer of St. Peter's fish processors." They are now branching out into frozen fillet which has the advantage of much lower transport costs because they

can be sent by ship, but the disadvantage of not being fresh, something Americans particularly appreciate.

Dag Shan has also started smoking St. Peter's fish, for which the breeders have developed a special strain of reddish fish that turns a golden and attractive brown after smoking. It is exceptionally tasty as well.

From silver carp they are marketing sliced smoked fish that can be eaten either cold or fried, and that at a lower price rivals in taste smoked turkey and bacon. They are also making smoked fish paste from the silver carp, something that is marketed in France under a "Pâté de Carpe Fumée" label.

The West Germans have also taken to St. Peter's fish, considered an exotic sub-tropical food with high-protein value and low-fat content. The West Germans are buying the fish at the rate of one-and-a-half tons a month.

A fish "sausage" is also made in the factory and so far is sold only in France. It is shaped like a sausage and tastier than many real ones.

The biggest market for the fish, however, is in the U.S. "We did not target the Jewish market," Snir said. "We introduced St. Peter's fish as coming from the Holy Land and stressed its New Testament associations. But once we established it, we have been able to sell it on its own merits — a tasty, healthy and competitively priced product that is gaining customers daily."

The factory also still makes some gefilte fish, mostly for the local market, and uses the pituitary glands from the carp as a hatching stimulant which it then sells to countries from Egypt to Australia, fetching about \$40,000 annually.

The factory is blazing new marketing trails for local breeders that will enable them to gradually increase their output. And for Israel the firm is earning invaluable foreign currency at an estimated 70 per cent "added value," a rate which is very high for any export.

The \$2 million Dag Shan hopes to earn abroad this year is still quite modest in relation to the over \$5 billion worth of exports Israel sells annually. But this is a factory to watch. Dag Shan's flying fish are only just taking off, and as the saying goes, the sky is the limit.



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Snob appeal

is either, for that matter.

So here we go, in no particular order: The Archbishop of York, Thomas Masaryk, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai, Mark Twain, Eleanor Roosevelt, The Emperor Titus (as General), King Edward VII (as Prince of Wales), Dinah Shore, U Nu, Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav, Herman Melville, Pope Paul VI.

Jack Kennedy (as Senator), Frank Sinatra, Yehudi Menuhin, King Agrippa I and King Agrippa II, Edmund Wilson, The Tribe of Naphtali, Alphonse de Lamartine, Rabbi Yohanan Ben Zakai (according to tradition, still sleeping here), Rabbi Akiva (ditto), Maimonides (ditto).

Tancred, Prince of Galilee. Shai Agnon, Albert Einstein, Henry Kissinger, Mary Magdalene, Marc Chagall, Dag Hammarskjöld, George Bernard Shaw, The Emperor Diocletian, Jesus of Nazareth, Konrad Adenauer, T.E. Lawrence, prehistoric man, Pierre Mendes France, Chaim Weizmann, A.D. Gordon, Saladin, Kaiser Wilhelm, Lord Balfour, Herman Wouk, Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, David Ben-Gurion, Sir Moses and Lady Judith (Montefiore, of course), Miss Lillian (Carter, in case you have forgotten).

It will be noticed that the great majority of these variegated VIPs made their visits in bygone days, when travel and accommodation was much more difficult than today. I don't know if this has a message for us here and now.

Many meritorious travellers have certainly been neglected in this listing, but even as it is, it makes a point. So cry your hearts out, New York, Paris, and London! And since it can't be beat, you might as well join it!

H.D.

Nof Kineret

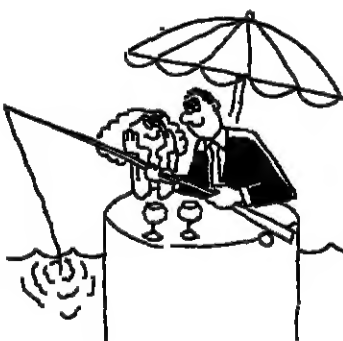
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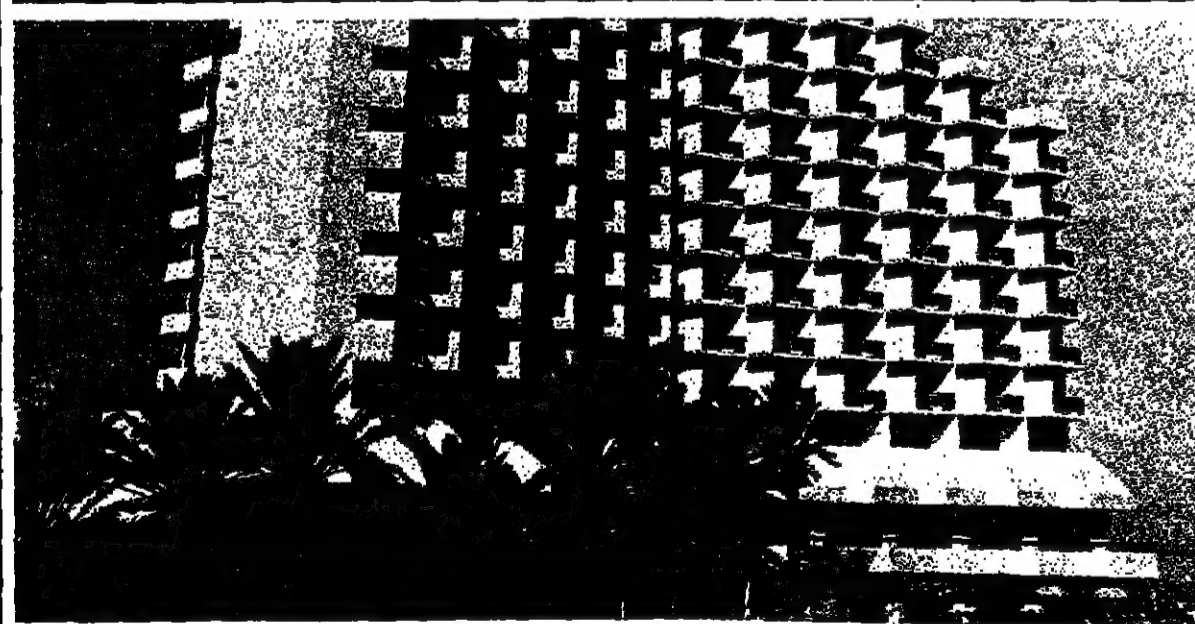
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A place for pampering

sports and children's programmes. In addition, among the entertainment the hotel provides is a champagne cruise on the Sea of Galilee.

after which guests are wine-and-dined at the poolside.

Guests may also spend a "Roman evening" at the Gadera hot springs where they are greeted by waiters in togas, bearing drinks and offering each guest wreaths to wear as a crown.

More energetic guests can go horseback riding or play tennis, and the Plaza also offers walking tours to the ancient sites of Tiberias.



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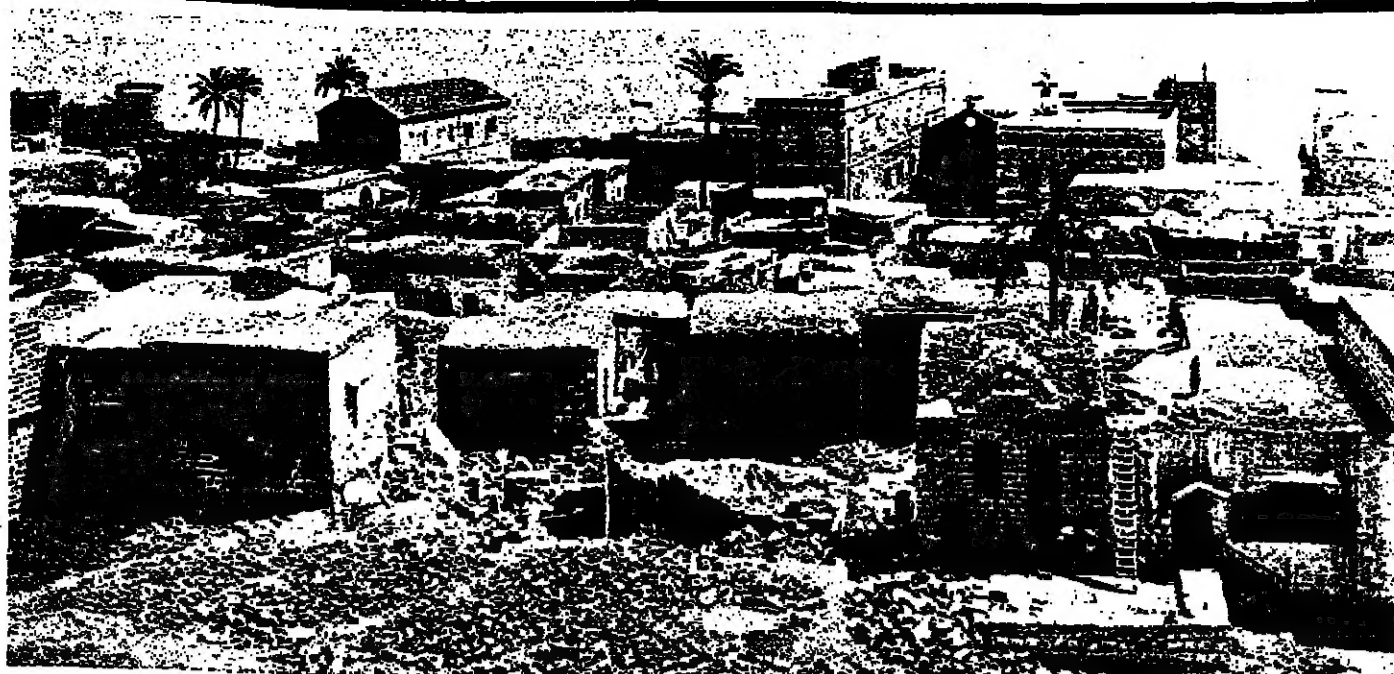


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Tiberias in the days before discotheques and round-the-lake bus routes (left), and today at the Hamat Gader hot spring resort (right).

Once upon a time

A century ago, travel around Lake Kinneret was a time-consuming and perilous business, Helga Dudman reports.

IT MAY happen — of course it is fervently hoped that it will not — that an important telephone message will be mislaid at the hotel desk. Or that the music from the discotheque next door will keep you awake. Or that the really delicious breakfast marmalade will disappear just at the moment you make it to the dining room.

Such are the perils of modern travel.

The perils were once of quite a different order; and for most people it may be said that Tiberias has come a long way in caring for its guests.

"One must not expect much luxury or comfort in Tiberias, and a tent on the hillside or the shore of the lake is by far the cleanest and most desirable mode of sojourn in this holy city," wrote Rev. Selah Merrill, over 100 years ago. Merrill, who for many years served as the American Consul in Jerusalem, left practically no path unwalked in his tours here.

Things had not improved much a

few years later when Baedeker's, the top travellers' guidebook for Palestine and Syria at the time, appeared in 1894. The visitor was warned that the Hotel Tiberias, near the Latin Monastery, was "dear and not very clean." And so, again, "tents had better be pitched on the bank of the lake, to the south of the town." And it was well to know that "the wine sold by the Jews is cheap, but bad."

As for excursions — our hardy ancestors who chose to enjoy them would all, by today's standards, deserve gold medals. For instance, getting to Tabgha, (13 kilometres north of Tiberias by road, just before Capernaum) took about 1½ hours, whether you went by horse or by boat. If you chose the latter, "it [was] necessary to keep close to the shore on account of the sudden squalls." As for the east bank of the lake, "excursions are unsafe, owing to the Beduins, and must therefore be made by boat, or with an escort."

If you wanted to reach Safad from

Tiberias it would take over 3½ hours — it took two hours and 10 minutes to get to Khan Minye, and another 55 minutes to Capernaum (these horses are carefully timed).

But there were planned efficiencies: "From Khan Minye, the baggage horses may be sent by a more direct route to Safad."

By 1933, when Rudolf de Haas's hard-to-find but very informative little book *Galilee* appeared, the situation was, by comparison, 10-star. "There are quite a number of hotels

in Tiberias, some of which are perfectly up to date." There were already two banks, eight doctors, two chemists, two garages, "several dentists," and a French vice-consul.

"Considering that Tiberias is only a small town, it is remarkable that all the necessities of life can be bought locally. Even films can be obtained in the pharmacy."

Air travel had already arrived: a hydroplane of the British Imperial Airways, piloted by Captain Gorry-Wilson, flew from Brindisi, Italy, in

the morning, via Athens, Rhodes and Cyprus, landing on the lake at Tiberias before sunset that same evening.

On the ground, though, it was still for the intrepid. Those intent on inspecting the ancient ruins at Gadara above El Hama in the Yarmuk Valley, "had best cross the river on horseback," de Haas advised. "If horses are not available, we may cross the river by walking along the railroad. A third eventuality is fording the river, which should not be done just opposite the hot springs as

the boulders hidden in the water make the passage difficult; it is much easier about 200 metres further up."

As for Tzemah, besides being the railway station of the line connecting Haifa with Damascus and Amman, it was also then the temporary landing strip of Imperial Airways, which connected Asia with Africa and Europe. "What struck the author most was the regularity, punctuality and safety of the service. Admirable were the ease and quiet which characterized the arrivals and departures of the machines: no noise, no loud commands! Everything worked smoothly and harmoniously, and the pilots and officers of hydroplanes and aeroplanes were so politely obliging."

Today things can be just as harmonious — and certainly swifter. Egged Tours now runs a much needed and long-awaited route around the lake. "Minus 200." It stops at over 10 of the shore's main attractions — Hanon Ma'agan, Hamat Gader, Ein

Gev, the Golan Luna Gal, Ramot Holiday Village, Capernaum, Tabgha, and Ginosar. All this in just about two hours, and there is no need to send the horses ahead.

The idea is that you can get off at whichever stop you like, and have about two hours until the next bus — or four hours until the bus after that. The guide is multi-lingual, and entrance discounts are offered at the tourist attractions. An added convenience for visitors is that the bus picks up and returns guests at many hotels throughout the town.

As one recent voyager suggested, it's a good idea to take the first bus which leaves Tiberias at 8:30 a.m. and provides the longest day. During the winter season, the last one leaves Tiberias at 3:15 p.m. A ticket costs the equivalent of \$5 for tourists, or \$8 for a two-day ticket, and NIS 8.5 for Israelis. Details are available at offices of Egged Tours. It's the latest thing, and not in Baedeker's.

NOT LONG ago, in an out-of-the-way place on a windswept Tiberias hilltop, I came across a little group of women making a big contribution to economic self-help.

I entered a building and found myself among one-of-a-kind wall-hangings, shoulder bags, small rugs, table mats, belts and some delectable women's vests — to name just some of the assortment. Working at wooden hand-loomers were 10 women, all intent on their work, in an atmosphere of tranquil concentration.

The women are from Shikun Dalet, Tiberias's "Second City," a part of the town practically unknown to visitors and to many residents as well. Comprised of predominantly large families whose breadwinners have low-paying jobs, the neighbourhood suffers from those problems that are endemic to underdeveloped urban areas.

The "Kinneret weavers" are at their looms every morning, five days a week. Their products are about to go on sale to the general public.

The atmosphere, the purpose and

the hand-made quality of the work reminded me of the very old days of design pioneering in Israel, before commercialism took over.

The way these women manage their little industry could be a lesson to us all: they organize their work as a group, and decide themselves as to who will do what, according to talent and preference.

Esther, a slim, neat woman of 45 who was weaving a delicate pattern in off-white and beige, is the mother of 16 children — each one a pride to the family. When I commented on the serene atmosphere in the room, somebody laughed and said, "Well, there aren't any kids here!"

The Kinneret weavers project, which began over a year ago, is part of a neighbourhood development effort. It is being run under the auspices of Project Renewal and Na'amat in Tiberias.

"Considerable thought was being given to the need for jobs for men, but the women in this area were being neglected," Ada Mizrahi, who heads Na'amat in Tiberias, told me while we visited the weavers.

Weaving up a storm

Helga Dudman discovers an industrious little group of artisans in 'Second City,' a Tiberias neighbourhood.

"It was essential for the women to have jobs with hours suited to their family responsibilities, and also for the work to be satisfying," she said. When the course was first announced in Shikun Dalet, 25 women registered. 14 started the six-month course, 12 completed it and 10 are now working regularly. Not a bad record.

"The idea really started when I happened to meet a new immigrant from Uruguay at the Immigrant Absorption Centre in Tiberias who knew a great deal about hand weaving. Then we had to make the organizational arrangements," Mizrahi explained.

The Jewish Agency agreed to fund the six-month course, and the Minis-

try of Labour paid the women's wages for six months until a presentable supply of products could be assembled.

The hand of Fate produced two instructors living on the Golan Heights, and 10 looms, originally from New Zealand, which had been acquired for a similar project in another city — that had not succeeded.

Hand-woven articles from Shikun Dalet, each labelled with the creator's name, have already made their way from the hilltop to the lakeshore, and to the plush atmosphere of the Tiberias Plaza Hotel, which premiered a sale of the items.

Actually, some Kinneret weaving articles have already become export

items, having made their way as far afield as St. Louis, Kansas City and Tulsa. These three American cities, whose Jewish communities generously support Project Renewal in the city, provided \$25,000 for the purchase of the looms and the raw materials — fluffy balls of pure wool in every shade of Galilee scenery, skeins of cotton, and other fibres. Any profits from sales will be used to support other projects in the neighbourhood.

For their work five hours a day, five days a week, each woman earns NIS 250 after taxes. Although this is a low salary, the women love the work and are proud to be part of a project which helps their community, according to Mizrahi.



Prices of the items on sale are about \$20 (for tourists). Orders for larger works from local organizations have also been received.

Visitors to Tiberias who are interested in seeing the Kinneret weavers workshop may contact Na'amat, Tiberias, at (067) 91614.

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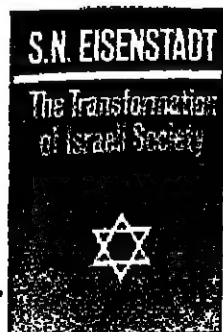
The little city that has it all! Tiberias is the holiday and cure vacation centre of Galilee, boasting year-round holiday weather. Situated on the shores of Israel's only fresh-water lake, 200 metres below sea level, Tiberias is a great place for swimming, sailing, water-skiing, rowing, fishing, tanning or just soaking in the quietude.

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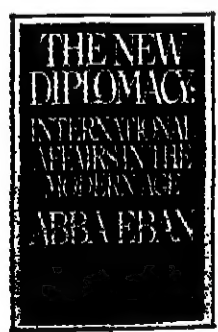
Tiberias has it all: 3500 hospitality rooms, from 5-star luxury to convenient rental apartments and inexpensive youth hostels. There's a wide variety of

first-class international restaurants and night clubs, recreational facilities and historical sites of impressive grandeur. Tiberias is a terrific starting point for tours of the Galilee region. Egged Tours' unique "Minus 200" line takes you to 25 sites around the Sea of Galilee, for only \$5 for a full day's tour, or \$8 for two days. You can get on and off anywhere along the route, and enjoy 10-25% discounts wherever you stop off. "Minus 200" stops at all major hotels in the city, visiting such attractions as Hamat Gader, the ostrich farm, Ein Gev, Luna Gal (the world's largest aquatic amusement park outside of the U.S.), Capernaum, Tabcha and Nof Ginosar. Details at Egged Tours offices and area hotels.

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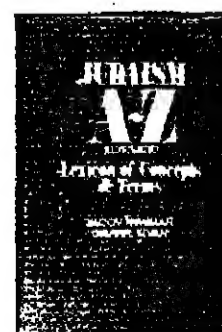
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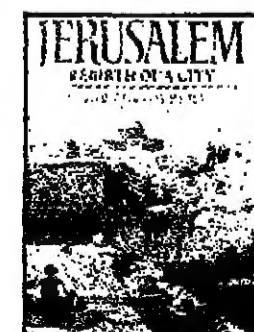
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MARKET PLACE

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Mid-course correction

On cue and almost by rote, the share market yesterday swung into its first major correction after two days of exceptional rises capped the first stage of the boom.

If the market behaves according to the regular patterns in these matters, there will be fairly sharp falls today, probably spilling over into tomorrow as well. On Thursday the market should snap back, leading to a renewed round of rises next week.

The most impressive thing about the last few days' activity has been the volume of trading, rather than the size of the movements. The fact that money has been pouring into the market, both directly and through mutual funds, is abundantly clear from the behaviour of individual shares and whole sectors.

On the other hand, the tremendous volatility of the market was evidenced dramatically in the violent switch from massive rises on Sunday to declines yesterday - with the advance/decline ratio lurching from 11:1 to 1:2. This must be regarded as the most off-putting, indeed frightening, aspect of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

This fact also explains the overwhelming preference of most small investors for mutual fund investments, rather than direct participation. The fund managers continue to absorb many millions of dollars daily, and they will have no choice but to place part of it in the share market, even if they would rather put it anywhere but.

Meanwhile, in the background, the stampede out of shekel deposits is gathering pace, as senior bank executives confirmed to this reporter yesterday. The banks are very worried about this trend, and the government is at present oblivious to the dangers involved in reducing interest rates and the fact that negative interest rates are going to be as harmful as too-high positive real rates. But all this is not directly relevant to the share market, at least in the immediate term.

The flood of liquidity will carry the market higher, temporary corrections notwithstanding, but only until the "hot money brigade" finds a new target and thunders off towards it. When that happens, the share market will crumble swiftly and with a loud noise.

CHELM CORNER

There are endless examples of how the citizen's life is made a misery, his time is wasted and his productivity reduced, all by stupid bureaucrats. One of the best (read worst) examples of these phenomena is being perpetuated by the National Insurance Institute, once regarded as the most efficient area of public administration in the country.

In the matter in question, the NII has been aided and abetted by the big banks, thereby leaving the small man with no chance at all. What is happening is that self-employed persons and other people whose NII contributions are not deducted at source, have to make monthly payments to the NII (why monthly? If inflation is so low, why can't they go back to two-monthly payments?). These, needless to say, must be made through a bank.

Time was when the payments could be made through any bank, so that at least the chore of paying could be combined with other business. Last year, however, the NII and the big banks fell out over the terms of collection - i.e., how long the banks could hold the money before handing it over to the NII.

The upshot of this squabble was that the NII decreed that all payments must be made in the three smallest banks - Mizrahi, First International and the Postal Bank (you know, the place with the rusty abacus).

Now, everyone must obtain cash from his own bank, unless he is already a customer of one of the smaller ones, and locate a branch of Mizrahi or First International, or stand for hours in or outside the post office, for the honour of paying his dues. All in the interests of efficiency and productivity, of course.

"UNPRECEDENTED interest by the public" is reported by the Israel Building Centre in its weekly counselling sessions for prospective home buyers. The sessions are held each Sunday evening at the centre's headquarters at 40 Rehov Ha'Universita, Tel Aviv. Entrance is free. Topics discussed by experts include elevators, security doors, insulation and solar water heaters, as well as legal and architectural aspects connected with a home purchase.

'It will take years to restore credibility'

Wall Street foresees long uphill struggle for Elscint

By WALTER RUBY

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
NEW YORK. - Two financial consultants said this week that despite the deal to save Elscint announced in Israel last Wednesday, it will take several years of steady management for the company to regain its credibility on Wall Street.

The two, John Westergaard, the highly regarded investment adviser who heads the John Westergaard Fund, and Isaac Vidomlanski, a trader with Bank Leumi Securities, said that despite the agreement, they do not expect Elscint's stock to rise much in the coming weeks.

Noting that Elscint rose from \$3 a share two days before the agreement was reached, to \$3.75 by the time it was announced, Vidomlanski commented, "The rise was based on anticipation of a favourable result to the meeting in Prime Minister Peres's office. Usually on the stock exchange, people buy stock before news breaks and sell it after it is announced." He added, "I suspect people want to sit back for a bit and digest the ramifications of this agreement." He noted that the stock for both Elscint and its sister company Elron appeared to be holding steady

in early trading on the market yesterday.

According to Vidomlanski, there is a general feeling that with this agreement, Elscint is back on the right track again. "Do not forget, though, that a lot of people were badly burned with this stock, which was selling not too long ago for \$29 a share and which had received good reports from Sherson American Express, Bache, and Oppenheim. It is going to take several years to restore Elscint's credibility."

Westergaard, who is a major investor in Israel, commented: "Certainly the plan that was announced has been expected here for several months. It is to downsize the company, and with Bernard Peled, they have certainly put the right guy in place to do that."

He added, however: "Elscint still has to prove it can survive in the marketplace."

According to Westergaard the stock is selling where it should be. Under the agreement there is going to be a large dilution of the stock, he said. But with a great deal of money being put into the company at \$2 a share, it is difficult to see the stock going up a lot from here.

Extra credit for big exporters

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A new scheme designed to aid firms enlarging their exports by 30 per cent or more during 1986 has been drafted by the Industry Ministry. Firms which qualify will enjoy a 10 per cent increase in their entitlement for credit from special funds, and will also be allowed to use further credits on account of next year.

Industry Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday that the increase in credits will enable many firms to enlarge their exports already in the current year. The credits will be given at *Libor* plus 2 per cent interest rates, making it very attractive.

Customs mix-up at U.S. border

U.S. customs officials last week prevented a shipment of Israeli bed-sheets from entering the country despite an accord reached last November about the enlargement of quotas of Israeli textile and apparel exports to the U.S. The Industry Ministry said yesterday that the incident was due to a misunderstanding and that the shipment was subsequently released.

But government officials told *The Jerusalem Post* that the personal intervention of Secretary of State George Shultz was needed to clear up the matter.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:			Turnovers:		
General Share Index	111.18	-0.68%	Shares - total	NIS 13,846,200	
Non-Bank Index	128.30	-1.51%	Arrangement	NIS 4,336,600	
Insurance	103.56	-0.27%	Non-bank	NIS 9,508,600	
Commerce, Services	143.54	-1.05%	Bonds - total	NIS 5,789,800	
Real Estate	129.92	-0.24%	Index-linked	NIS 3,386,700	
Industrial	152.08	-1.15%	Dollar-linked	NIS 2,403,100	
Textiles	121.11	-1.68%	Treasury Bills	NIS 7,723,900	
Electronics	146.71	-1.34%	Share Movements:		
Metals	114.23	-5.56%	Advances of which 5%+	105 (289)	
Chemicals	104.85	+0.34%	"buyers only"	30 (137)	
Industrial Invest.	116.19	-1.79%	Declines of which 5%+	89 (7)	
Investment Cos.	128.54	-2.06%	"sellers only"	30 (2)	
General Bond Index	99.57	+0.27%	Unchanged	96 (73)	
Index-linked Bonds	99.80	+0.13%	Trading Halt	43 (51)	
Fully-linked	101.30	+0.20%	Bond Market Trends:		
Partially-linked	98.84	+0.10%	Index-linked		
Dollar-linked Bonds	97.38	+0.81%	3% fully-linked		
Short-term 0-2 yrs	99.37	+0.21%			
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	99.35	+0.21%			
Long-term 5+ yrs	99.17	+0.58%			

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%	Name	Price	Volume	%
Commercial Banks				Trade & Services			
(not part of "arrangement")				Mair Ezra	4700	164	-
Mazda 1	1075	5405	-4.4	Supersol 2	4408	1336	-
General non-arr.	37000	217	-	Delek r	4455	1244	-3.7
First Int'l	3680	12336	-	Lighterage	9215	98	-5.0
IBI	3405	9547	-0.8	Cold Storage	1321	1502	+2.3
Commercial Banks				Dan Hotels	3685	125	-5.1
(part of "arrangement")				Yarden Hotel	3000	2361	+18.5
IDB r	79510	1127	-	Hilton 1	12313	51	+5.0
Union 0.1	59000	273	-	Team 1	1705	849	-
Discount	100700	386	-	Real Estate, Building and Agriculture			
Mizrahi	32400	1270	-0.8	Azorim	4210	1901	-
Hapoalim r	83580	1828	-0.7	Elion	1125	1702	-10.0
General A	137015	47	-0.0	Africa r. 0.1	39000	89	-
Leumi 0.1	33980	1787	-0.2	Dankner	3904	-	-8.0
Fin. Trade	46100	-	+3.4	Prop. & Bldg.	2750	1885	-1.1
Mortgage Banks				Baydell 0.1	3680	145	-0.3
Leumi Mort. r	4940	8.0.1	-5.0	ILDC r	43300	180	-2.3
Dev. Mort.	1030	2246	-	Rassco r	5250	b.o.1	+5.0
Mishkan r	2300	572	-0.4	Mehadrin	11000	393	-8.8
Tefahot r	10800	83	-10.0	Hadarim	1190	1908	-
Meruv r	2120	2722	+5.1	Industrials			
Financial Institutions				Dubek b	3300	898	-
Agric. Dev. DD	30899	2	-7.7	Pr-Ze 1	2785	2781	-10.0
Ind. Leasing 0.1	8480	126	+3.0	Sunroast	5380	248	-
Insurance				Elite	14850	892	-
Ararat 0.1 r	4000	374	-1.2	Adgar	815	7172	+8.0
Heaven 0.1	2875	5327	-4.3	Argaman r	7410	1841	+8.0
Phoenix 0.1	1453	1101	-	Delta G	4630	603	-
Hamishmar	6850	80	-1.0	Mazda 1	25000	42	-2.8
Menorah r	6830	100	+7.8	Eagle 1	10800	197	-8.4
Sahar r	3716	830	-	Polgat 0.1	9070	1135	-
Zion Hold. 1	12505	81	+6.8	Schoellerma	14850	156	-4.8

To the Members of Kupa Holim Maccabi

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FINANCIAL DATA: ISRAEL, EUROPE, U.S.

Israel Money Markets March 10, 1986

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES

PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.75% per month
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	LAST UPDATED	TAPAS	PAKAM 7-DAY	PAKAM 30-DAY
LEUMI	10.3	6-18%	7-14%	6-13%
HAPOLIM	20.2	8-18%	13-17%	13-17%
DISCOUNT	28.2	8-17%	9-17%	10-17%
DIK	18.2	12-19%	12-20%	12-18%
MIZRAHI	20.2	8-18%	8-18%	6-18%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.
(TAPAS: demand deposit paying daily interest.
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAH - FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (as of March 10)

	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD	8.875	8.875	7.000
STG	11.125	10.750	10.375
SFR	3.000	3.125	3.125
YEN	3.875	3.750	3.750

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS	BANKNOTES	BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1.4807	1.48	1.4809
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	2.14703	2.09	2.1475
GERMANY	MARK	0.8491	0.84	0.8492
FRANCE	FRANC	0.2106	0.21	0.2109
HOLLAND	GULDEN	0.5744	0.57	0.5744
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	0.7676	0.76	0.7676
SWEDEN	KRONA	0.2025	0.20	0.2025
NORWAY	KRONE	0.2062	0.20	0.2062
DENMARK	KRONE	0.1761	0.17	0.1761
FINLAND	MARK	0.2864	0.28	0.2864
CANADA	DOLLAR	1.0487	1.03	1.0487
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1.0344	1.04	1.0344
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	0.7410	0.74	0.7410
BELGIUM	FRANC	0.3148	0.31	0.3148
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	0.8276	0.81	0.8276
ITALY	LIRE	0.9584	0.94	0.9584
JAPAN	YEN	0.8150	0.80	0.8150
JORDAN	DINAR	1	0.40	1.1317
EGYPT	POUND	1	0.85	0.8663

SUPPLIED BY BANK LEUMI

European Financial Markets

Precious Metals

GOLD:	LONDON	A.M. FIX	341.80	P.M. FIX	340.25
SILVER:	PARIS	NOON FIX	344.10	ZURICH P.M.	341.35
PLATINUM:	LONDON	FIX	554.90		
PALLADIUM:	LONDON	P.M.	397.50		
		P.M.	105.00		

FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT)

Forward Rates	SPOT	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
DEUTSCHE MARK	2.275005	118/113	117/112	343/333
POUND STERLING	1.438908	113/110	150/153	279/273
SWISS FRANC	1.536080	123/118	184/178	355/348
JAPANESE YEN	180.70/80	59/56	89/86	183/179
FRENCH FRANC	760.00/00	1150/1125	1500/1450	1850/1800
ITALIAN LIRA	1936.25/00	2875/3000	4000/4150	6900/7100
DUTCH GULDEN	2.570015	124/120	248/240	445/452
BELGIAN FRANC	46.620/640	30/35	36/42	44/52
DANISH KRONER	8.2885/10	-25/25	-25/25	-25/25
S.AFRICAN RAND	8.5035/45	38/31	48/43	80/70
EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT	0.9453/68	40/36	52/46	75/65
FINNISH MARK	5.1470/80	240/280	350/400	830/730
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.7018/25	122/118	173/169	317/311
NORWEGIAN KRONER	7.2000/50	850/880	950/1010	1870/2010

Formula for determining forward rates:
high/low (eg. 220/210) - deduct from spot price.
low/high (eg. 210/220) - add to spot price.

New York Financial Markets

WALL STREET Closing Prices

Dow Jones Indices	1,702.95	+ 3.12	NYSE Highest Volume	5% +1%
IND	733.08	+1.72	STRATEC	47
TRANS	82.81	+0.36	BEATRICE	149%
UTILS	676.87	+1.64	IBM	12%
STOCKS	130.87	+0.49	WESTAIR	11%
NYSE COMP	148.75	+0.63	GULF ST	8%
NASDAQ COMP	363.93	+1.89	US HOME	22%
S-P INDEX	216.29	+1.22	PAC GAS	2%
S-P COMPOSITE	226.58	+1.01	SMITH INTL	22%
AMEX INDEX	280.78	+0.73	ATT	5%
NYSE	VOL 126,536,120	STOCKS UP 958	DOWN 695	
NASDAQ	VOL 120,314,800	STOCKS UP 1192	DOWN 808	

Comment

WALL STREET STOCKS STEADY AFTERNOON NEW YORK - Stocks were moderately higher, in dull trading. Several buy programmes lifted stock into the plus category brass said.
IBM was up 2 1/2% to 148 1/2% in active trading, riding sentiment in the market as a whole.
A bond market rally lent background support. The Dow Jones Industrial average gained six to 1708, after falling as low as 1686 initially. Volume was 115.3 mln shares.
Storage technology rose 1 1/2% to 5%, and wheeling Pittsburgh 3/4% to 12. It said a first quarter profit is possible.

ISRAELI STOCKS Traded in New York:

NYSE and ASE							
	Last	Prev. Close	High	Low	Vol ('00s)		
Alliance	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	2		
Am Isr Pap	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	105		
Ampel	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	142		
Elscint	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	220		
Elz Lavud	12 1/4	12 1/4	13	12 1/4	39		
Laser Inds	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	120		
Over the counter							
	last	bid	ask				
Bank Leumi	-	20 1/2	22 1/2	Interpharm	last	bid	ask
Elbit	8 1/4	8 1/4	8 1/4	Optrotech	-	4 1/4	4 1/4
ECI Tel.	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	Rada	10 1/4	10 1/4	11
Elron	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	Sotter	10 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4
Fibronics	14	14	14 1/4	Taro-vit	8 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4
IDB Bank	-	48	52	Tevapharm	-	3 1/4	3 1/4
IS	5	4 1/4	5	SPI	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Editor and
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Exorbitant interest rates

THE FINANCIAL expeditions for the rescue of Kupat Holim, Solel Boneh, Elscint and Zim, different as they are in cause and effect, have at last jolted the government into taking a close hard look at interest rates, which for the nine critical months of the recovery programme were largely left to the discretion of the Bank of Israel.

On Sunday, Bank of Israel Governor Moshe Mandelbaum was induced to "propose" to the cabinet that it should reduce effective interest rates by about 1% to approximately 3%, which would put the nominal interest rate at over 36 per cent a year, or some 18-24 per cent in real terms. The cabinet, still sitting as the central bank's advisory committee, graciously approved the proposal.

Now, if there has ever been a case of too little and too late, this is it. It is too late because it is the government - that is, ultimately, the taxpayer - that will pick up the tab for preventing financial collapse in these headline-grabbing cases. As the Gadish report on Kupat Holim and the Fogel report on Solel Boneh have shown, the threatening bankruptcies were in large measure the result of usurious interest rates imposed by the central bank and raised to an extreme of exorbitance by the commercial banks.

At least some of the present mess might have been avoided - that substantial part attributable to monetary policy, and to the loving care with which the central bank looked at anything that promised to increase the commercial banks' profits. Interest rates could have been reduced earlier and more rapidly, as Minister without Portfolio Yigael Hurvitz argued in Sunday's cabinet meeting. The bailouts would probably still have been necessary, but the bill would have been considerably smaller.

In the final reckoning, too, there will not be much profit in all this for the banks. What they gained from the swings of monetary policy, they will lose by having to forgive a large chunk of the interest they charged, and by writing off bad debts.

But Sunday's cut in the interest rate was also too little. A real interest rate of as much as 24 per cent a year is neither justified nor supportable in an economy that is well on the road to price stabilization. It is not justified because there is no present visible danger of a run on foreign currency, and there has been none since the launching of the economic recovery programme, which is one of its successes; and because the usurious interest rates have not reduced the volume of credit throughout this period of time.

The rate now decreed is not supportable either because interest has to be paid out of profits, and in an oligopolistic economy like ours so high an interest rate may, in fact, exert an upward pressure on prices and prevent the rate of inflation from falling further.

All the heated debate about renewal of economic growth will remain so much hot air so long as the present monetary policy is allowed to continue. The recovery programme, it is true, had to be supported by monetary restrictions, but in reasonable measure. A tourniquet applied for too long can cause gangrene.

A great deal of money is now to be raised on the capital market and borrowed abroad to extricate the biggest victims of bad industrial management and a bad monetary policy. That money will not be enough to put the many smaller, now tottering firms back on their feet. If it hadn't been for that policy, so long and so vigorously pushed by Dr. Mandelbaum, the same money might already have sparked some genuine growth.

Dubious move

THE SOVIET Russian mission to the United Nations headquarters in New York is a notorious viper's nest, the presence of which on American soil the host country cannot be expected to particularly relish.

Reportedly two hundred and seventy-five strong - and that apparently not counting the missions representing the fictitious Soviet "states" of the Ukraine and Byelorussia - it is inflated beyond any reasonable diplomatic need. The propaganda it regularly spouts from all manner of UN forums is extraordinary in its contempt for the elementary rules of diplomatic decorum - nasty, brutish and repetitively long. The equation of Zionism with racism and of Israel with fascism is a staple and typical argument by spokesmen for a regime that, back in 1939, struck a deal with Nazi Germany for the partitioning of Poland, thus smoothing the way for the Hitlerite invasion of Russia and for the implementation of the Final Solution.

Diplomacy, however, whether official or unofficial, public or secretive, is not the sole activity in which the Soviet mission engages. Another major occupation in which it is known to have long specialized is espionage of all kinds. The American authorities have sought to curb this activity by placing restrictions on the Soviet diplomats' travel outside New York. But they have not been able to put paid to the practice.

It is not surprising therefore that Washington should wish to order more than one third of the Soviet mission to go home within two years' time, even though this could be of somewhat dubious legality. What is surprising is that it should actually do so now, right at a time when a new Soviet leader has obtained from his party congress a vote of confidence in policies that just may - even though there is no guarantee that they will - work to lessen international tensions.

According to *The Sunday Times* the Reagan administration considered a slash in Soviet representation at the UN last autumn, but decided against it so as not to jeopardize the chances of the planned Geneva summit. One upshot of that meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev was the projection of a follow-up, possibly in June of this year. Now it is generally assumed that the next summit will not be held for quite some time.

The angry reaction from Moscow to Washington's expulsion order makes it clear that Mr. Gorbachev views it as an insufferable slap in the face by American hardliners, more anxious to raise the U.S. military edge over the Soviet Union, than to blunt the threat of nuclear war between the two super-powers.

This should be a matter of concern not only to the U.S. itself but to those of its friends and allies that have a vital stake in probing the possibility of a resumed, mutually advantageous detente.

TIME HAS a way of resolving issues. It does more than that. It becomes the gauge by which to measure truths. Time separates the true from the false. What survives endures because it is conched in terms of truth that time tolerates. What is not substantiated by truth will not stand the test of time.

Further than that, solutions of time are real. They may defy logic, sometimes contradict all reason, but they become the facts that rational prognosis must accept as truth.

Let us start with the very existence of the Jewish people today. There is nothing original in the statement that the very existence of the people defies all logic. Over 1900 years ago the Roman Emperor Titus inscribed *Judea capta est* on his Arch of Triumph. "In every generation there are those who rise to destroy us," is written in the Hagada, which is at least a millennium and a half old. Pogroms, holocausts, join homelessness to make Jewish survival inconceivable, improbable, unreal. Yet time proves the contrary. A people that spent more than half of its history outside the Land returns to it as the only force able to revive the Land, and restores its nationality to itself.

Vast segments of the Jewish people fell from its ranks either by coercion or by choice. There rejection of its "truths" led them elsewhere. Yet the people, the entity known as Jews, still prevails despite the ravages of time.

Nor were all the forces that threatened Jewry's existence external ones. Internal deviations from its basic principles were espoused by sections of the people who left its truths and consequently also its ranks. Those who in biblical times turned to the Baal and Astarte; those who in Hasmonean days became Sadducees and Bayusim; then the Karaites, the Samaritans, followers of Shabbtai Zvi and David Reuveni. Yes, even the movement of Hasidism of the late 18th and 19th centuries. No movement deviating from normative, Pharisaic-Rabbinic Jewish truth has survived in the ranks of Jewry. Yet the Jewish people, despite these dissensions, still persists on the stage of time. Its "truth" gives it durability.

Within the range of Jewish experience are a multitude of developments that have withstood the tests of time, and thus seem to summon support for their truth. Let us take a few as representative of many more.

□ The Russian revolution, with its doctrines of atheism and anti-Semitism, sought to stamp out all vestiges of the Jewish religion. Its first attack was against the synagogue. Hundreds were closed. The relentless campaign developed year by year, a Jewish youth that denounced parents because they still honoured vestiges of their religious heritage. Jews were given the Yiddish theatre, a Yiddish newspaper and Birobidjan as a Jewish territory, to encourage a nationality separated from the Jewish past.

Time has played its part. The theatre and newspaper which the mighty Russian government endorsed for Jewish expression have withered. Birobidjan never really struck roots. The only Jewish institution that has survived as basic to Jewish identity is the synagogue: the first religious institution to be victimized and the last to keep functioning.

This strange fact, along with the inexplicable historic fact that Jews have comprised the only group to be allowed, in any measure, to leave Russia, reveals some special "truth" that contradicts logic.

How does one explain the phenomenon that Simhat Torah night - the least probable in the Jewish calendar - has become the time for special gatherings at Russian synagogues? This day has no message of freedom (like Pessah) or of a New Year (like Rosh Hashana-Yom Kippur). Yet it is the time of Torah celebration, a Torah they do not know. Those desirous of being Jews study religious sources, seek to practise religious observance, learn Hebrew. All this in defiance of the powerful Soviet police state. Time and truth defy logic and world powers.

□ When I first arrived in Los Angeles

Test of time

SIMON DOLGIN

in 1939, there were about 100,000 Jews in the community. There were Jews of all shades. The new generation, in its desire to adjust to the new world in which their parents were strangers, rejected the tradition of those parents. New developments came to the fore. The Jewish school system included about 20 secular Yiddish (Arbeter Ring) and Labour Zionist schools, whose intention was to give a modern dimension to Jewish life. Today, with a Jewish population of about 600,000, there are no Yiddish or Labour Zionist schools. Time separated the truly Jewish from substitutes.

During the years of my sojourn there, I witnessed the violent opposition of Conservative and Reform rabbis and Community Council members to the Jewish day school. For years, educational funds were denied these schools. Today, there are Conservative and Reform day schools. Time seems to have revealed the day school as more "true" to the ideals of Jewish education.

Time has again rejected the logic that dictated the disintegration of Orthodoxy and its day schools. Time has decided that those opposed must yield to the "segregated" schools that the Orthodox initiated. Of course, these schools have not accepted the intense Torah learning of the classical day schools. Some, amongst these Conservative and Reform rabbis, marched with Martin Luther King in Alabama. Now they want the day school because it is free of the black integration for which they once marched. They have adopted the day school because of its segregation, a far less noble reason than what motivated the Orthodox, who pioneered the day school as assimilation and intermarriage becomes more critical from day to day. The spiritual holocaust is more threatening than ever. All this comes after five decades of accommodation to Jewish youth. Temples of majestic size and beauty were erected. Youth programmes were developed at great expense. Compromises on observance were made - all to attract the youth. Yet assimilation increases. Time apparently rejects these trends even as it did previous deviations. Orthodoxy in America and its day schools are the only bulwark against erosion that time seems to accept.

□ The Russian revolution, with its

When I first arrived in Los Angeles

When I first arrived in Los Angeles

Slouching towards theocracy

ROY ISACOWITZ

TEN YEARS after the United Nations General Assembly equated Zionism with racism, Israel's religious establishment has taken it upon itself to throw the Jewish religion into the equation as well.

The religious parties' exercise in *mea culpa* came in reaction to a proposed amendment to the penal code cracking down on racial incitement. The bill, which is currently dangling somewhere in Knesset limbo, is, at best, a tepid affair. The toothless legislation would not provide authorities with the enforcement powers necessary to deal effectively with racist organizations or to prevent racist incitement. At best, it would force racists to be more careful in their public pronouncements.

Yet even that was too much for the Orthodox establishment, which declared itself unable to support the bill on the grounds that certain Jewish practices could fall within the definition of incitement to racism. At an overheated meeting of the religious caucus in the Knesset, Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz and MK Avraham Shapira painted an alarming picture of religious Jews being arrested for reciting *Havdala* ("Blessed art thou...who distinguishes between Israel and the nations...") or interring their dead in Jewish graveyards.

Their fears are worth taking seriously. While it appears patently absurd to maintain that private utterances such as prayer would fall within the ambit of the amendment, that is not the case with various other Orthodox practices which have become the norm in Israel.

Take, for instance, the recent ruling by one of the chief rabbis that Halacha forbids the sale of property in Israel to non-Jews. Any anti-racism law worth the name would put such a statement beyond the legal pale. The same applies to the anti-Arab campaign in Neve Ya'acov.

THE PROBLEM lies in the relationship between religion and the state. The personal religious belief of the individual is of no concern to the secular, democratic state. But when public expressions of religious

believe infringe upon the rights and status of others, it becomes a legitimate target for the state and the law.

Religion has been the saviour of many individuals. But when pressed into the service of political or nationalist forces it is a curse. Witness the centuries of Christian warfare in Europe, or the modern examples of Northern Ireland and Iran.

The teachings of Judaism have produced many great Jews; the perversion of those teachings in the service of Jewish nationalism has produced Kahane and the terrorist underground.

By its nature, religion is exclusionary and elitist. Halachic rulings may have served the needs of homogeneous tribes in biblical times, but they have no place in the legal or moral codes of a modern, heterogeneous society.

Israel is already a long way down the road of racial-religious exclusivity. Each time a religious vote is needed to bolster a shaky coalition, another chip breaks off the secular-democratic foundation of the state. In recognizing that an innocuous anti-racism bill poses a threat to religious hegemony, the Orthodox establishment is only stating the obvious.

Never mind that they chose to concentrate on the absurd examples of *Havdala* and Jewish burial. What the religious parties were saying in fact is that there is no place in Israel for both Western moral precepts and a state legal system that is hostage to the Halacha.

THEY ARE right, of course. Kahane, Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz and Rabbi Eliezer Waldman of Tehiya are no democrats. Each is on record as having placed limits on the sovereignty of the legal system as drawn up and implemented by the institutions of the state.

For them, Israeli democracy is not a value to be cherished and safeguarded, but a stepping stone to a higher form of social organization: theocracy. Each time a football stadium is closed or a rabbi allowed to wield his kashrut certificate like a weapon, that theocracy comes one step closer.

It is utterly mistaken to argue, as did a leading figure in the United Kibbutz Movement some time ago, that the "democratic left" in Israel does not have the strength to wage a war on three fronts - and that the struggle against religious coercion should therefore be shelved temporarily, in the interests of the peace process and economic recovery.

Each front is of equally critical importance. Just as there can be no security without economic independence, there will be no security if the way of life that needs securing is not acceptable to the majority of Israelis. And it is still legitimate to assume that the majority of Israelis will not feel driven to defend an obscurantist theocracy.

Political expediency has already given far too much legal standing to what should never have been allowed to leave the private domain. It's about time we started changing the balance.

The writer is a member of the editorial staff of The Jerusalem Post.

Dry Bones

THE GOV'T IN EGYPT REOPENS ITS PEOPLE.



THE PEOPLE IN LEBANON REOPENS THEIR GOV'T.



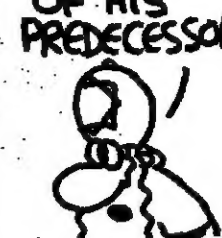
THE IRAQIS MIGHT LIKE SOME HELP IN KILLING IRANIS.



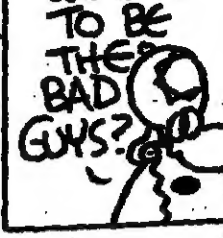
THE RULER OF EVERY STATE ON OUR BORDER.



GOT THE JOB AFTER THE MURDER OF HIS PREDECESSOR.



... SO HOW DID WE GET TO BE THE BAD GUYS?



READERS' LETTERS

COMBINED CONVERSION COURTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir - A hearty welcome to MK Ehud Olmert's proposal for combined conversion courts, as reported in The Post of February 7 - courts to include Conservative, Orthodox and Reform rabbis. His proposal (providing for an Orthodox majority) is a variation on what some of us have been urging for quite some time: courts with equal representation, but limited to acting only on the basis of unanimous agreement.

Whether the actual formula is either of the above, or a third variation, is of little consequence. With goodwill, the precise details can be readily worked out. What is vital is for Orthodox rabbis to be willing to sit down with non-Orthodox rabbis so that:

1. The entire Jewish world can be sure that all future conversions are halachically proper and beyond anyone's questioning.

2. We can begin dealing with some of the problems of personal status which have accumulated in all of our Jewish communities.

This presents a very clear test of motivation: if the concern is extending halachic observance - the presumed justification for the periodic "Who is a Jew" legislative focus - the Orthodox will welcome this step. But if the concern really is maintaining a monopoly of political religious power, they will continue to reject it.

Rabbi JOSEPH HECKELMAN
President,
Rabbinical Assembly of Israel
(Conservative)
Safed.

ACCESS NIGHTMARE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir - Greer Fay Cashman is right (February 18): "The majority of hotels have been constructed with little or no thought for the physically handicapped."

The King Solomon in Jerusalem has a so-called wheelchair toilet, but I'd like to see somebody in a wheelchair get in and close the door. There is a lot of talk these days about so-called "design for the disabled." Usually it is just the difference between good design and bad design. In recent years, western countries have improved greatly. Sad to say we haven't. Good design is very hard to find here.

Visitors to the Clal Building (Jerusalem) get lost because it is not clear what floors the elevators go to. If you put your car in the basement car park of the City Tower building in

Jerusalem, you'll run into the pillars if you're not careful. The SuperPharm chain constructed the most beautiful pharmacies in the country - with great wide passageways. Then they spoiled them by placing extra fixtures in the passageways. What had been a beautiful store became a cluttered obstacle course.

A few months ago in Holland, I was in a 300-year-old museum. There wasn't any part that wasn't accessible, and I am a wheeler (wheelchair user). What about the Israel Museum? It's an access nightmare.

What are we doing to our environment? Why don't we design with care? Why do we make the whole country into one big clutter?

TREVOR GUREWITZ
Jerusalem.

THE ANC

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir - Why does The Jerusalem Post insist on referring to the ANC terrorists in South Africa as guerrillas? Israelis would be upset if the South Africans referred to the PLO as guerrillas. Besides, the ANC are Marxists, which means they are pro-Arab and very anti-Israel.

Calling them nice names is not going to help Israel.

Gal Ed.

A. KRAMER

HIAWATHA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir - Hats off to Matt Nesvitsky for his masterful parody of Longfellow's "higher water" (or is it Hiawatha?) in the Magazine of February 28.

We have begun to become accustomed to Matt's talents as a columnist, a humorist and a just-plain-entertainer, but this time he really outdid himself.

Keep up the good work, Matt!
MOSHE AUMANN
Jerusalem.

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**PEDAGOGY,
CULTURE AND
THE HUMAN BRAIN**

Chairman:
Professor Ozer Shield
on Tuesday, March 18,
1986, at 8.00 p.m.

Albert Einstein Square

POSTSCRIPTS

THE BETHLEHEM town fathers and chamber of commerce and the Israel postal service might take a tip from Aaron Carroll, the postmaster of Bethlehem, Maryland. That is one of a number of American localities bearing the name of the Judean village where King David and Jesus were born.

Normally, about 2,500 pieces of mail a month pass through Maryland's Bethlehem, which has a population of 250. But during the Christmas season, Carroll hand-stamps the Bethlehem postmark and Christmas cachet on 25,000 letters

and cards from all over the world. Some people come in person from different parts of the U.S. to get the special postmark and cachet depicting the three magi looking up at the Star of Bethlehem. A car salesman from Pocomoke, Maryland brought 1,300 letters.

M.K.

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